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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

7-1934

Justice (Vol. 16, Iss. 6)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

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JUSTICE

Official Organ of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Vol. XVI. No. 7.

Jersey City, N. J., July, 1934

Price 10 Cents



The Convention Bids:

"We Must Not Stand Still; The I. L. G. W. U. Must Reach Out To New Fields While Holding Fast To Its Gains."

11 Weeks of "Union Assembly" on the Air

By MORRIS S. NOVIK

Director of Programs, Station WEVD

Alla Nazimova, Film and Radio Star, with President Dubinsky, at WEVD "Mike."



"Not by bread alone do we live" was the keynote of President Dubinsky's address at the inauguration of "The Union Assembly" series, known as the Voice of the L.I.G.W.U. on the Air, on April 4, 1934. President William Green, speaking on this same program in behalf of the American Federation of Labor, greeted the officers and membership and characterized the series as a pioneering venture in keeping with the advance educational steps taken by the International in the course of its existence.

The series had as its guest speakers and honorary sponsors: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Frances Perkins, Mrs. Clifford Finch, Patsie Hurst, Rose Schneiderman, Governor Clifford Finch, Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Norman Thomas and William Green.

Our Chief Objective

Our objective was to reach our Eastern membership and their families, and, particularly, the newcomers in the Union, so that we could acquaint them with the aims of the organization, its struggles and accomplishments. Because of the complex composition and divergent interests of a membership of 300,000, the job of organizing a program was difficult.

We, therefore, arranged to include in each program an address by one of our prominent honorary sponsors, classical music by one of the ten foremost chamber music ensembles scheduled for the week—series, a short address by a member of the Gen'l Executive Board touching upon various union problems, and entertainment by a prominent Broadway radio and concert star. The chamber music ensembles included: Compinsky Trio, Bach String Quartet, Kraft String Quartet, Perola String Quartet, Stradivarius String Quartet, Gordon String Quartet, Saleado Mary Trio and Aeolian String Quartet. The Broadway and concert artists who appeared were: the Hall Johnson Choir, Blanche Turkia, Nazimova, George Jessel, Morton Downey, Ira Kramers, Molly Picon, Tamara, Celia Adler and Mary McCormack. We introduced something new in presenting Nazimova and Blanche Turkia in dramatic roles on child labor and the NRA.

Friendly Comment

The reaction of radio critics, generally, to this program is most interesting and significant. I am sure all of you are familiar with the Outstanding Programs of the Day Box in which these critics list about half a dozen programs out of many programs (approximately 350) offered

daily by the important stations. It is, therefore, most reassuring to note that "The New York Times" featured 3 out of the 11 programs broadcast; the New York World-Telegram, 11; the New York Evening Post, 11; the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, New York American and the Daily News averaged 6 or 7 out of the 11. The papers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Bridgeport and elsewhere featured these programs as frequently as did New York papers.

When the series opened, every newspaper in the East carried feature stories about it and all commented that it was the first time that a labor union contacted its membership via the radio. The editor of the Post said: "There is not an independent station outside in the metropolitan area that has ever offered its public a series of such extraordinary distinction." The World-Telegram said:

"The union is sponsoring the program as an experiment in a new medium to keep its closest... with its membership of 180,000. The character of the entertainment is a departure from radio routine, too."

"A Rallying Point"

It is interesting to note the comment of Forbes Magazine, a leading industrial magazine, in its issue of April 15th. It said: "The series is significant not so much because a union is sponsoring the program but because a union is using radio for the same reason that an employer does, as a business-like method of meeting its business problems. It gives members a rallying point, keeps up the interest and builds up a definite picture of the union."

Extract from President Dubinsky's Speech Closing Radio Program

We had a great convention in Chicago—the greatest in number of delegates, representing the biggest membership our International ever had, the greatest in enthusiasm and in debating, and reflecting the greatest advance ever made by our Union since we became an international organization.

The delegates at our convention were thrilled when they saw our picture "Marching On," portraying the struggle and the progress of our Union. This is the first labor picture in the country and the convention viewed the first showing of our film. Arrangements are being made for it to

be shown everywhere throughout the country for our members and their friends.

The convention, by acclamation, approved the action of the General Office in utilizing the radio as a medium for education and propaganda, and has directed the General Executive Board to arrange for future programs on an even more elaborate and extensive scale. Originally, this series consisted of 10 programs, but in order to make possible this opportunity of addressing our membership, the series was extended to include tonight's program. Our radio broadcasts will be resumed in the Fall, and the interim will afford us the opportunity to make arrangements for future programs, speakers and stations, so that we may reach an even larger number of our members.

I want to take this means of expressing our appreciation to the guest speakers, artists, Station WEVD and the other broadcasting stations for their cooperation, and to Morris Novik, who worked so hard to make these programs a success, as well as to our members and all other listeners.

It is my keen desire to get from our members an expression of opinion regarding the value of these radio programs. All suggestions, criticism and comment, will be appreciated. They may be addressed to the General Office at 3 West 14th Street, New York.

"Variety," the most critical of theatrical and radio magazines, said in its issue of May 1st: "For carrying out the spirit of their purpose, these half-hour sessions garner much credit for those concerned in the union and for the station itself." Of course, it is needless to report that the labor and radical press throughout the country announced and reviewed the programs very favorably. The series very appropriately originated from WEVD, (the Eugene Debs Memorial Station), and was relayed over an Eastern network which included WICC (Bridgeport and New Haven), WTP and WDAS (Philadelphia), WCAN (Baltimore), and WOL (Washington).

On June 8th, when General Johnson spoke for us, his speech was also carried by the N. B. C. national network of 60 stations. The publicity, preceding and following his broadcast, put the L.I.G.W.U. on the front page in every newspaper in the country.

The delegates at the recent Chicago convention of the L.I.G.W.U. indicated their interest in this series when they unanimously adopted the report on it made by the General Executive Board and also adopted a resolution approving the series and instructing the Board to continue these radio programs in the Fall.

New Method of Education

The growth of the International Union in the last year has brought in its wake new problems of education. No arena is big enough to hold the huge membership of a great many unions. We could not possibly find prominent educators, personalities and artists to locate in small cities. We, therefore, turned to a modern medium—the radio. "The Union Assembly" series was started in the East only because it is the rallying point for so much union activity. But from the first day our thought has been to expand it so that in every market in the country where the Union is active there would be a similar series. It is our intention and hope that next year we will find a "Union Assembly" series not only in the East but also in New England, on the West Coast, (where, we learned at the Chicago convention, the Union has had occasion to use radio for organization purposes), the Middle West and the South.

No report of the series would be complete without a word of thanks for the splendid cooperation of the many artists who participated, the wholehearted support of President Dubinsky and the tireless interest of Max D. Danish, editor of "Justice" and director of publicity.



MORRIS S. NOVIK
In Charge of "Union Assembly" Programs

JUSTICE

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MOLLY PICON
Stage and Radio Star

Dress Locals Summoned to Act on Cotton Dress Issue

Upon his return from Washington, on June 25, after a week of hearings on the Union's demand for the reopening of the Cotton Garment Code, President Dubinsky forwarded in all dress locals throughout the country a communication in which he explained the need for action on the part of the dress industry, and urged the dress industry to take action on the demand for the reopening of the regular Dress Code.

The letter, besides, calls upon all dress unions to "mobilize their forces, to call meetings of the cotton and wash dress workers" in their respective localities and to "create public opinion everywhere favorable to the improvement of the work conditions of these workers." The letter follows:

To All Locals and Joint Boards of Dreamakers Affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U. Brothers and Sisters:

The Cotton Garment Code, which provides for a 48-hour work-week and a \$13 minimum, and to which the International objected strenuously from the very beginning, was finally reopened last November, shirts, leather coats, etc. Our International Union, together with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the United Garment Workers, presented a number of demands to the Administration for revision of the present code. We demanded a 35-hour work-week, an increase in wages, definite wage scales for cutters, and the transfer of cotton and wash dresses to the Code which governs the Dress Industry.

Cotton Code
Jobs Workers

The Cotton Garment Code represents American dressmakers, including belted cotton and wash dresses, pants, overalls, shirts, leather coats, etc. Our Union has contended right along that dresses manufactured by the so-called non-dress manufacturers have no relation whatsoever to shirts, overalls, and pants and are in direct competition with the Dress Industry. The Cotton Garment Code was one of the very few under which the workers were deprived of an opportunity, under the NRA, to enjoy fair work conditions. Because the cloak and dress trades were substantially organized at the time the Code for these industries were formulated, our International Union succeeded in obtaining a 35-hour week and proper wage classifications. The cotton and wash dress industry, however, was considered unorganized and the employers were, therefore, free to dictate their own terms, which were incorporated in the Cotton Garment Code resulting in a longer work-week and much lower minimums for the workers in this industry.

I. L. G. W. U.
Demands Changes

At the recent hearing in Washington, our Union contended that the conditions provided in the Code for the Cotton Garment Industry failed to increase employment in the cotton and wash dress industry, that the \$13 minimum became the maximum wage, and that the purchasing power of the worker was not increased. On the contrary, the workers who earned above the minimum prior to the Cotton Garment Code received reductions in wages, and that the employers introduced a speed-up system in the factories as a result of which the workers produced substantially the same under 48 hours as they did under the 44 and 48-hour week formerly. We, therefore, demanded a reduction in hours in order that the unemployed workers may be absorbed into the industry. We furthermore contended that in view of the rise in the cost of commodities, the \$13 minimum today is equivalent to nine or ten dollars prior to the NRA and that the workers were, therefore, entitled to an additional increase in wages.

The Union also pointed out at these hearings that although the industry is known as the housedress industry, the employees manufacture the same type of garment as is manufactured under the Dress Code, that is, they also manufacture dresses for street wear as well as formal dresses made not only of cotton but of rayon, wool, silk and other materials. This, we declared, tends to increase the interests of the tens of thousands of workers who now enjoy better conditions in the dress shops and compels the workers in the housedress and wash dress factories to produce better garments under inferior conditions, sanctioned by the Government through the Cotton Garment Code, and denies them the wages and hours to which they are entitled under the Dress Code.

Employers' Arguments

The cotton garment manufacturers were apparently well aware of the injustice committed to the workers in this industry and used every means to resist the Union's demands. They made an attempt to raise the sectional and racial issue; they enlisted the aid of several members of Congress against any modification or revision of the present provisions of the Cotton Garment Code; they threatened the Administration that if the demands of the Union for a higher minimum and a shorter work week would be granted, the industry would be destroyed, as the consumer would have to pay a few cents more for the garment and spread also that the workers employed by them are unskilled and that in view of the fact that their factories are located in the West and in the South, the \$13 minimum and the 48-hour work-week were necessary. The Union maintained that all the workers in the Dress Industry, irrespective of locality, are entitled to the same protection under the NRA.

It may be clear to you, therefore, that we are confronting in this situation powerful opposition and that we shall have to mobilize all our resources to win improved conditions for these tens of thousands of workers and to eliminate any state of war between the workers and the employers take of the workers employed in the cotton wash dress industry.

Call to Mobilize Forces

We call upon you, therefore, to mobilize your forces, to call meetings of the cotton and wash dress workers in your locality for the purpose of enlightening them concerning the situation, so that they may be fully acquainted with the position of the Union and the position taken by their employers, to create public opinion everywhere favorable to the improvement of the conditions of these workers, and to combat every effort on the part of their employers in soliciting the aid of members of Congress and others in order to maintain the present low standards in the industry. The International, on the other hand, will con-

tinue resolutely to press forward the Union's demands, in accordance with the decision of our last Convention, which calls for continuous activity in the cotton and wash dress industry, and will give all possible support to any worker who, in any locality that will be ready to fight for improved conditions in order to bring these until now neglected and mistreated workers closer to the work standards and earnings of the other workers in our industry, members of the I.L.G.W.U.

This is an important matter which should not be delayed and should be taken care of immediately. Please keep in touch with the General Office regarding your activities and meetings and consult with us in order that our activities in this direction may be of a uniform and general character throughout the country. The General Office will be glad to furnish you with literature and other assistance you may need in this connection.

Fraternally yours,

DAVID DUBINSKY,
President-General Secretary.

News from South Jersey Locals

L. BARNES, KARP
I.L.G.W.U. Organizer

During the past several months, an intensive organization campaign has been waged in the city of Bridgeton and vicinity.

The difficulties which we encountered were many and I can proudly say at this writing that there is a local there now and that it has come to stay. One of our problems was to convince the employers that we meant to have a union there, and now they realize that we mean business. Several of the employers have already fallen in line and I am confident that the others will follow suit very shortly.

The Fight in Bridgeton

Another of the difficulties that we encountered in Bridgeton was the fact that the employers had implicated among some of the workers the idea that the only reason they were in business in Bridgeton was to give them work. For that favor the workers were to work for them next to nothing.

The workers, however, are starting to realize that their only salvation from sweatshop conditions is to join our International, and I am glad to say that they are flocking to the union headquarters of Local 136 and joining up with the union.

Local 136, of Hammonton and New Harbor, in spite of the bad season which they had, held a splendid dance and celebration to show that they had confidence in their Union. The affair was addressed by Sister Francis M. Cohen, of the New Jersey State Federation of Labor. It is interesting to note here that some people once threatened to run the union representatives out of town for talking union to them.

Vineland and Millville, though they have not had any celebration, seem to be very practical to the extent that they have made the union their only religion in the factory, and above all, they have learned that "in unity there is strength," and they are acting accordingly.

Third Season Starts

We are starting our third season under hard circumstances and I think it would be proper to talk at this time of conditions as they are today. I do not know how many of you know of the special New Jersey Code that we had in contact with during the Spring season, and the trouble that we had in holding our own. All that I can say is that, thanks to the National Code and Salt Code Authority and the results following the hearing in Newark, we were able to put our opponents in their place.

Dealing With A Hard Firm

I have had the pleasure of having to deal with the firm of H. A. J. Block in South Jersey, and it is no secret that it is not the easiest thing in the world to work with that firm and meet the keen competition of their work. But, in some manner, we have managed to keep the wolf away from the door.

We have faced many acid tests and the workers of South Jersey have shown their solidarity by meeting their union obligations and they have seen to it that their dues books are paid up to date.



Executive Group, Local 76, Wash Goods and Cotton Dress Union, Chicago, Ill.

Pres. Dubinsky's Keynote Speech at Chicago

Conventions in the life of a labor union, in general, and in the case of our Union, especially, are not merely jubilation gatherings. True, we have abundant cause for congratulating ourselves and the labor movement of which we are a part, upon the remarkable progress we have made in the past year. It is also true that this convention marks the 15th anniversary of our existence as an autonomous international union within the fold of the American Federation of Labor. But our conventions have a far greater significance to our delegates and to our membership. We assemble every other year to take stock of our achievements or failures, to criticize our policies or to approve our tactics, to legislate for the future, to strengthen our position in our industry and to remove obstacles in the way of our advancement. These purposes are the chief objectives of our conventions.

A Look Into The Past

Since its historical revolution that took place in the cloak industry in 1919, when our Union was first established on a sound basis, we have been pioneering in many fields—its collective bargaining, its educational and governmental work, in enlisting the aid of public-opinion citizens and government officials in the struggle for the elimination of sweatshops, in preservation of health for the workers, in taking part in community activities, in helping various charitable institutions, and in extending mutual help to organizations in this country and abroad in their struggles for human rights. We have reduced working hours, we have established minimum scales of wages for workers, and we have given the worker the right to his job so that he may not be discharged without review by a proper impartial tribunal.

Our Union enjoyed prestige and influence in the industry until the unfortunate situation that developed in 1925, due to an internal conflict, and followed by the disastrous strike conducted by Communists who were then in control of our New York organization. That was the first defeat our Union suffered, and for a number of years after that, we were compelled to face the serious difficulties that could befall a labor union resulting primarily from the financial strain caused by that internal fight, the tremendous depth of the 1926 strike which saddled upon us debts amounting to more than two million dollars, and the subsequent general economic depression.

The Burden of Debt

Attempts to retain its good name with its creditors, and considering, especially, the fact that we owed close to a million dollars to employers who had deposited this money with the New York organization as security for faithful performance of agreements, and which money was used up by that reckless administration during the strike, our international publicly assumed the obligation for this entire indebtedness, and has since made every effort humanly possible to liquidate it. We fully realized how difficult it would be for a labor organization to meet such an enormous debt, but we felt, because of our glorious past and honorable name, that we were in duty bound to assume this obligation.

The industrial upheaval which set in early in 1930, however, upset our calculations. Thousands of our workers lost their jobs, and those who held jobs



DAVID DUBINSKY

worked only a few weeks during the seasons and were not able to meet their obligations to the organization. The employers, on the other hand, taking unfair advantage of the depressed situation, kept on reducing work standards, many of them moving their shops from the metropolitan centers to small suburban locations in order to escape union control and to obtain cheap labor. This merciless competition, greeted between the old established markets and the small-town cheap labor markets, brought down the work conditions to the lowest possible level. It reached a stage where in some of our trade wages were reduced to as low as \$5 and even \$3 a week. The sweatshop in all its worst forms reappeared, and was crawling havoc among our workers. Nevertheless, we were helpless in our efforts to combat this evil because we were short of funds needed for organizing campaigns, and were, in addition to this, being harassed on all sides by desperate creditors.

Loyalty Amid Despair

At the beginning of 1933, we reached the point where we were unable to help some of our local unions with even a meagre few dollars to enable them to maintain their headquarters. Some of our locals were practically wiped out of existence, while the morale of the members, in general, was at a very low ebb. Here and there attempts would be made to do organizing work, but these attempts did not yield any material results. It was more in the nature of a desperate fight for existence and a show of resistance to the employers who continually were breaking down work standards, increasing work hours and actually creating beggars out of their employees and forcing them to rely in numerous cases on charity and relief for a sheer livelihood.

Fortunately, we had in nearly all our organizations substantial numbers of loyal and devoted members, most of whom had been involved in many of the Union's glorious struggles in the past, and who remembered the great contribution the Union had made towards the welfare of the tens of thousands of workers in our industry. These loyal groups stuck to the organization, ready to fight to the last and not to give up the ship, inspired by a never-dying hope

that the Union would come back to its former strength and influence in the near future. The leaders of our locals and joint bodies were subjected to all sorts of attack, slander, and mischief by the Communists, who were aiming to destroy our organization during those dark years. These leaders worked for months and months without pay, ready to undergo privation and to make all necessary sacrifices. They voluntarily reduced their wages just as soon as it became evident that the depression was not a temporary affair, and I desire to state here publicly that it required a great measure of idealism and devotion to our cause on the part of these officers and leaders to set as unselfishly as they did. I dare say that the revival of our Union is due in no small degree to the spirit displayed by the members and the officers during those crucial months and years in the life of the organization.

The Volunteers Respond

And it was because of this that when President Roosevelt inaugurated the New Deal, and Congress enacted the NRA, we found ourselves equipped with an excellent crew of people who were ready to be placed immediately in the service of the Union and to work as hard as it is humanly possible for any man to take advantage of the great opportunity which presented itself at that time to rebuild and strengthen our Union.

The moment the NRA went into effect, we issued a call for volunteer organizers and met with an astounding response. Though unemployed for many months, and in need of financial assistance, our active men and women, nevertheless, plunged into the work assigned to them and made good in nearly every respect. The first two months of our activities during that period may be described as "the two months that shook the Ladies' Garment Industry." The General Office immediately prepared hundreds of thousands of circulars for distribution in every market throughout the country. People with experience were assigned to important positions to start intensive campaigns. The message went out to all our offices: "Prepare for immediate strikes." We aroused a sentiment for organizing campaigns in every part of the country where ladies' garments are being made. In places which were completely isolated from union influence. Requests for organization work poured into the General Office from dozens of places. People who had been away from the organization for years were deluged with letters. When we ran short of our own material, we enlisted into service people from the labor movement outside of our own organization. A concerted drive started simultaneously in practically 60 cities the country over. Strategy was used in picking the most favorable positions as the outposts of the battlefield. A successful strike was carried through in May, 1933, in the dress industry in Philadelphia, which had been the stronghold of non-union employers for twelve years, ever since they defeated our Union in 1922 after a costly strike lasting 26 weeks. This victory in Philadelphia electrified our officers and members everywhere.

We followed it up in July, 1933, in the cloak industry of New York, the strongest and most solid block of our organization, which was better equipped than any other of our vigilantes to offer resistance to the employers. We were able to obtain for the cloakmakers a good code, the first which established a 35-hour week in any industry in the country. Our next field was the dress industry of New

York, which has become the most important branch in the dress trade, employing over 120,000 workers throughout the country. Our dress industry branch at that time was only about 15,000, and we knew that the employers would be in a position to challenge our right to speak for the workers in the industry, as a whole, as we had only about 15 per cent of them in our ranks.

Quick Strike

Quick and Hard

Our strategy therefore was to strike quick and hard. There was so much exploitation and misery among the tens of thousands of workers in the dress industry in New York City, proper, and even more of it in the dress production centers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut towns surrounding the metropolitan district, that we had reason to hope for widespread response to our call. We also felt that the publicity given in the public press to the shameful conditions which prevailed in the thousands of dress sweatshops was a powerful factor for defeating these degrading conditions of labor. Our calculations proved to be correct, and as you all know, when the strike-call was issued, 70,000 people in New York and in the surrounding dress markets became part of that giant struggle, and within a short time became a legitimate part of our International Union.

The settlement of the dress strike, after only two days of fighting, made with the aid of Grover A. Whalen, then the Chairman of the New York City NRA Committee, resulted in the granting of a 35-hour work-week, the closed union shop, collective bargaining, recognition of the right of the worker to his job, elimination of all overtime and of home work, abolition of child labor, and fair wage scales for various crafts. What is equally important, our Union received representation on the Code Authorities equal with all other factors, and may I say here that while we are a minority on the Code Authorities, we nevertheless, exert due influence in the enforcement of the Codes.

A Magnificent Growth

Immediately following these strikes, strikes were also declared in another dozen industries in New York City, in trades that had been neglected for years and years and had meanwhile grown to substantial proportions. Nearly all these strikes were conducted simultaneously in New York in about 13 industries and in 15 other markets throughout the country, resulted in the establishment of the 35-hour week, minimum wage scales, and conditions similar to those gained by the cloak and dress agreements in New York.

As a direct result of these strikes, our Union grew extensively in numbers; from a membership of 40,000, we have now become an organization of 206,000. The cloak industry throughout the country is today organized 95 per cent; the silk dress industry is organized over 90 per cent. In New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, which used to be the main recruiting centers in the dress industry where our Union could not make headway despite strenuous efforts in the past, the industry is today completely organized and decent working conditions were established for the workers who were formerly mercilessly exploited, while the other industries in the dress industry are substantially unionized, and there is hope that we shall completely organize the balance of these trades in the near future. Thousands of workers who were

compelled to leave our trades during the years of the depression have now flocked back into our shops. The greatly enlarged membership has assured a tremendous income for our organization, and has made it possible to continue work along organizing this everywhere. This additional membership also has called for an enlargement of our staff, and the present complement of 75 is sufficient to run the business of our Union in all our markets, no less than 150 people are today employed in the various offices of our International Union throughout the country, augmented by a clerical staff of not less than 200.

All our local unions today possess substantial treasuries. The General Office has found it possible to liquidate almost all our debts, to regain our good name, and to revive our prestige in community life by helping such institutions as formerly counted upon generous assistance from our International.

Morale at High Point

The morale of our workers is today at a finer point than ever before in the history of our Union. The best evidence of this is the big meetings and the imposing installations of officers which our locals have held recently in New York and in the numerous localities in New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and in other parts of the country.

Our organization has grown to such proportions that we have within our International one local union, the Italian Dressmakers, Local 35, with a membership of 40,000, the largest single local union in the country. In a recent election in that local 17,500 members participated in the vote. Local 22 of New York, dressmakers, has a membership of nearly 30,000, and in their recent election close to 15,000 people took part. The same may be said of the rest of our locals. Almost 50 percent of their membership, an amazing number, as one who is intimately with local union affairs should admit, took part in the recent elections, and this testifies to the deep interest which the members are taking in the affairs of their organizations.

Our International is involved in 18 Codes covering the following industries: Coal and Sulfur, Silk Dress, Cotton Dress, Skirt, House and Waist, Underwear, Rainwear, Knitgoods, Footing and Hosiery, Garment Embroidery, Corset and Brassieres, Ladies' Neckwear, Robe and Allied Products, Children's Dress, Covered Button, Handkerchiefs and practically all of them, we have Union representation with equal rights and equal votes with the exception of several minor industries where, because of the change of attitude on the part of the Administration, our representatives have no vote.

Institutions Revised

We are coming to this Convention in the city of Chicago with 143 chartered locals and 12 joint boards located in 73 cities in 16 states. Our locals will be represented by 240 delegates. In 1929, the year we registered the highest turnout in the history of our Union heretofore, we had only 64 local unions, 10 joint boards and 237 delegates. In 1932, in Philadelphia, we had only 62 local unions, 10 joint boards and 154 delegates. In 1930, we had a membership of 110,000. This year our membership has risen nearly 100,000 which comes out of approximately 70 per cent women and 30 per cent men.

With this astounding revival and growth in membership, our Union again has resumed its activities in the field of education. We are now contemplating establishing an Educational Department on an elaborate scale.

NRA and the Future

It is to touch upon the question frequently brought up in our midst and outside of it as to the effect of the NRA on the extraordinary revival of our organization and the possible effects of the evolution of the NRA upon our future. In connection with this, I should like to state at the very start, that the NRA, as passed by the so-called New Deal, has had a marvelous effect and brought beneficial results to our workers largely because of the militancy of our Union, and of its readiness not only to threaten to strike, but actually to resort to strikes when the occasion called for it. Mainly, however, was our success due to the fact that we concentrated our drive during the first three months immediately following the enactment of the NRA. This period can be described as the "honeymoon" of the NRA, and such unions as were equipped to meet the situation, like the United Mine Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and our own International, obtained satisfactory results.

The administration in Washington in the early stages of the NRA appeared to be ready to give the underdog a "break." The general sentiment throughout the country at that time appeared to be that our so-called Captains of Industry, who were responsible for the industrial calamity all over the country, were powerless in dealing with that disaster. It was generally felt that radical legislation that would give the workers employment and higher wages, meaning increased purchasing power, was the most essential step toward recovery. During those early months, the basic industries had not been involved in the NRA Code negotiations, and when it came to the consumer industries, the first to cooperate with the NRA authorities, the Administration showed an attitude sympathetic to Labor. The employers, of course, were equally aware of the militancy and the determination of the workers, and at that time no objections were raised in any quarters as to Labor's right to be represented on Code Authorities. During that period, membership in the industry was not a mere phrase, but Labor was held to be a vital and important factor, and was granted a voice in determining hours of labor, other work conditions, and representation on Code Authorities.

Nulifying Section 7A

No sooner, however, did the important basic industries become involved in Code hearings than they began to show resistance to substantial work hour reductions, to proper wage scales, and to the Union's right to be represented on Code Authorities. Thereupon, the NRA authorities also began to assume a different attitude. Interpretations of Section 7A followed which nearly nullified the original intent of the law. Company unions were encouraged and the persistent defiance of the National Labor Board by several outgroups in the industry was not a mere phrase, but Labor was held to be a vital and important factor, and was granted a voice in determining hours of labor, other work conditions, and representation on Code Authorities.

In other words, the NRA today is not any more what it was in its early stages. The expectation that the NRA would give

employment to all the idle workers has not materialized because work hours were not cut in most industries substantially enough to create sufficient employment. While wages were raised as compared with wage scales existing prior to the NRA, the net effect of living has collapsed materially the wage increase, so that the purchasing power of the workers today is hardly above what it was a year ago.

Union Main Enforcers

Only in such industries where substantial unions exist did these minimums remain actually minimums and not maximums. In the non-union industries, the Codes are not being enforced, and flagrant violations by the most "pairfect" employers are a common experience. In the unionized industries, the NRA has been a help towards enforcement, although even there the enforcement depends largely upon the strength of the union. The unions are better informed as to violations and they are in a better position to enlist the services of the NRA for enforcement; they can insist and finally make possible restitution of wages to underpaid workers. In our own industries, tens of thousands of dollars have been collected in this manner in back pay and turned over to the underpaid workers. And finally, in the unionized industries, where the NRA fails to carry out this purpose, the threat of a strike often brings better results than even prosecution under the law, which the employers, in most cases, consider simply a threat.

The Darrow Commission, in its attitude of sympathy for the so-called small business man, commits an error when it tries too strenuously to maintain the existence of the small business man at all costs. From the first day of the depression, it was clear that the little man could survive only at the expense of Labor. Unwilling to admit that the economic forces were working against him, and that he would shortly become a part of the working class, himself, or starve, the small business man continued a hazardous sort of existence by slashing wages here, chiseling there, lengthening hours and indulging in such practices that degraded the working conditions of his employees.

The Cry of the Small Man

The small business man was responsible for the return of the sweatshop, a thing which we had hoped would be long forgotten past. It meant a cheap, dirty life-aver, removed from the control of unions, or even of forces of the law. Apparently, however, the small business man refuses to look the facts in the face, and is, therefore, not entitled to any special privileges. The little man who must ought to realize that as a capitalist, he cuts a sorry figure and that there is no legislation or other forces that can turn the clock back and insure his economic existence.

In any event, Labor does not propose to be exploited by him in the meantime. We refuse to return to the degradation of our workers in order to justify or to extend the existence of the small business man. If he had any sense, he would cast in his lot with the laboring masses. Of course, I do not want this analysis to be interpreted as justifying the tactics of monopoly and big business.

These things, however, the first period of the NRA brought greater improved conditions to our workers. In its present stage, however, the NRA confronts us with some definite difficulties which can be overcome only by arousing the organized labor movement against changes or against nullifications of its labor provi-

sions. It is a serious problem. In general, to workers all over the country, and even a more serious problem in those industries where company unions have been organized. As far as we are concerned, we are sadly sorry that we suffer very little. In company unions in our industry, and we are confident that in the few isolated cases where they exist, we shall combat them as successfully as we can.

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Important Resolutions Adopted at Chicago Convention

Against barring of or discrimination against colored workers in trade unions or the abridging of their rights in them.

To instruct delegates to all of the conventions instructed to actively promote such resolution at said conventions.

For a concerted campaign to bring about legislation for the abolition of injunctions interfering with legitimate rights of trade unions, in time of strike or otherwise. I.L.O.W.U. delegates to A. F. of L. conventions instructed to actively promote such action at said conventions.

To call a general strike in the cloak and suit industry in the city of Baltimore for the purpose of unionizing the entire local market.

To carry out a nation-wide campaign on a large scale and to organize the workers in the cotton garment industry, in include, Baltimore, Kansas City and other centers.

To inaugurate campaign for organizing the needle trades workers of Puerto Rico; to take necessary measures for such an organizational drive and to eventually secure the affiliation of the Puerto Rico ladies' garment workers with our International Union.

To sanction a general strike in the knitted garment industry in New York for the purpose of establishing minimum wage scales, the shorter work-week and other standard work terms as soon as such an agreement in the industry exists and all other measures fall to follow the above-mentioned purpose.

To launch an organizing and unionizing campaign in all knitted garment markets, such as Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago and the Coast centers.

To start organization drives and to carry through strikes in the corset and brassiere industry in all markets in order to establish standard union conditions in this industry and to bring about a complete unionization of all workers therein.

To start a general campaign of organization in all markets of the hose dress industry and to place it under same work standards as prevail in all other trades under the jurisdiction of the I.L.O.W.U.

To endorse a campaign in the San Francisco clothing industry for the purpose of organizing the Chinese ladies' garment workers and to affiliate them with the I.L.O.W.U.

To endorse a general strike in the silk, rayon and cotton dress industry of the City of Los Angeles at the opportune time, to win union recognition on the closed shop basis.

To instruct I.L.O.W.U. representatives on Dress Code Authority to endeavor to restore the original wage scale which provided for only a 15% differential in Los Angeles as against the wages prevailing in the New York market.

For an organization campaign in the rainwear industry of Boston for a national drive to unionize this industry, and to make all efforts to have a representative on the New England Raincoat Code.

For a general strike in the underwear and white goods trades in Chicago during the forthcoming season.

For a campaign to complete the organization of the National Dress and Dress Shops.

To call a conference in New York of all locals and joint boards of the dress and allied industries to work out means for introducing and enforcing union label on all embroidery used in the cloak, dress and other trades in contractual relations with the I.L.O.W.U.

To start an organizing campaign to complete unionization of all ladies' garment workers of every branch of the industry in Cleveland, proper, as well as in the vicinity of that city.

To call a general strike in the Montreal cloak market, and to introduce a shorter work-week and similar wage scales in both leading Canadian cloak markets, Toronto and Montreal.

Demanding freedom for the Scottabore boys who are now facing death as result of farcical trials conducted in a spirit of lynching.

In favor of the establishment of an extensive system of social services by the Federal government, including compulsory unemployment and sickness insurance, old age and maternity pensions, etc.

To urge the Executive Council of A. F. of L. to take initiative in launching a powerful nation-wide drive against company unionism.

In favor of week-work in principle, leaving it to the various organizations, in conjunction with the General Executive Board, to adapt it to the particular circumstances and conditions of our industries.

To enact a constitutional provision giving the O. E. B. power to supervise local elections.

To amend Constitution by adding to the list of standing committees of G.E.B.

A Jurisdiction Committee, consisting of five (5) members, which shall have the power to determine all questions of jurisdiction arising between local unions or joint boards of the I.L.O.W.U.

Submission of the levy of an assessment to a membership referendum shall be decided only upon request of a majority of delegates to a convention.

G. E. B. instructed to do all in its power to hasten the establishment of unemployment insurance funds in all cloak and dress markets, the expense of maintenance and operation of such funds to be borne by employers only.

Favoring the establishment of an Old Age Pension Fund by act of Congress and cooperation with all liberal and progressive organizations for that purpose.

Endorsing radio educational program of General Office and extending it in the future, expanding it to ever wider localities.

That I.L.O.W.U. take over the Union Health Center.

Levying a \$1 assessment on the entire membership, and that the Incoming G. E. B. be instructed to use this fund to pay or Duty House debts and expenses with it the future of Union Health Center.

For amalgamation of all needle trades unions into one body and for calling a conference of same organizations with the object of discussing ways and means of accomplishing it.

For affiliation of the American Federation of Labor with the International Federation of Trades Unions.

For modification of existing immigration laws so as to allow the free entry of fugitives from Fascist terror and reactionary persecutions abroad as well as of all such as are being oppressed in any land on racial, political and religious grounds.

To instruct delegates to A. F. of L. conventions to propose and work for establishment of Needle Trades Department.

To actively participate and to take initiative in movements to combat Fascism and to raise a fund of \$10,000 to assist victims of Fascism, to give generous aid to active labor and political refugees and to assist political refugees and victims.

To instruct the G. E. B. to call a conference of Locals 1 and 17 in New York, cloak operators and reformers, with the object of bringing about an amalgamation of the two locals within the shortest possible time, preferably in a voluntary way.

All educational work now conducted by locals or otherwise be placed under the supervision of the General Executive Board or the Educational Department of the I.L.O.W.U. with directions to arrange its work in such a manner as to be able to supervise and assist the various locals in their educational activities and thus prevent unnecessary conflicting and overlapping work in this field.

The Incoming G. E. B. shall commence an active campaign in all markets for the 30-hour five-day work-week. In all future negotiations for the shorter work-week, special attention be paid that it be achieved without reduction in earnings and that the interests of the workers be safeguarded in cases where introduction of new machinery may create undue hardships and additional unemployment. To support shorter work-week in Congress and to aid A. F. of L. in this campaign.

To work for liberation of Tom Mooney and Warren Hillings.

To take all necessary measures to enlighten and educate our membership in the spirit of unalterable opposition to war and to join other labor organizations in campaigns of anti-war agitation.

To condemn the imprisonment of all political prisoners and to demand their immediate release.

For open door for the immigration of Jewish workers into Palestine, free from every sort of internal and external restrictions.

To suspend and waive for the next two years the clause in I.L.O.W.U. Constitution, Section 1, Article 8, requiring the election of a general secretary-treasurer, and that said post be vested during the aforementioned period in David Dubinsky, president of the I.L.O.W.U.

A Song of Men

We sing the songs that we make,
Naked, stark and true;
Songs that are red with our blood,
Stained with our tears right thru.

We sing of the men who gather
In factory, forge and mill;
And warm their hands at the fire
In the cold, gray morning chill.

Warming their hands for a little time,
Strong hands at the Fire of Life;
Living and working and hoping,
Midst the din, the stress and the strife.

We sing of the cold and dark,
The fog and the damp and the gloom;
Of the road that the worker journeys on
That ends for him, ever in doom.

And whatever the road we travel,
In our search for life and bread;
We seek the sun in the evening
As it dyes the sky blue-red.

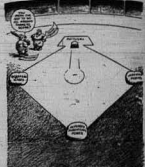
And over the hill in the morning
We see the golden glow,
Giving us hope and courage
To strive for the things we know.

Out of the dark to the sunlight,
Forth from the slum to the glen;
We are the Sons of the Future,
Men and the Children of Men.

Forward! We press, ever forward!
Over the ground we pass;
We are the men who matter,
We are the Working Class.

R. M. FOX.

WILL HE GET TO FIRST BASE?



These isn't any doubt

Convention Spurs Cause of Workers' Education

By FANNIA M. COHN

Secretary, Educational Department
Int'l Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Long and live our memories of the days we spent at the Chicago convention, celebrating the thirty-third anniversary of the birth of our International. It was one of these momentous events to which these, especially, responded who have lived through the trials and tribulations, the victories and defeats, the joys and anxieties of our organization and of the labor movement.

The delegates to our convention were men and women, young and old—the sons and daughters of the many nationalities and races which have made America great. These who have heroically joined our ranks sat side by side with the pioneers of our Union, all of them moved with pride of working-class solidarity. Before our new recruits unfolded the immensity of the labor movement and its mission in our turbulent world. Their own importance as members of the International and the labor movement grew as the convention proceeded.

Legislators, Judge and Jury

There were that earnestness and joyous rapport which come with the new consciousness of being the chosen representatives of hundreds of thousands of workers. As delegates, they found themselves in the position of one who is called upon to assume the duties of an administrator, legislator, judge and jury. It was to them that the highest authorities in the Union—the President, the General Executive Treasurer, and the General Executive Board, were to report on their activities. It is they who would have to act on these reports and formulate a policy and program to guide the new administration for the next two years.

The delegates were thrilled with their first experience as members of committees considering resolutions, listening to arguments in support of them and formulating reports to the convention.

Significant of this convention was the large number of women delegates. Many of them were young mothers who left their little children with their husbands; others were middle-aged and still many more were very young girls. They were absorbed in everything that transpired at the sessions. It was a new experience to them. Many of them took notes, not wanting to depend upon the official report of the stenographer. They were earnest about their responsibilities, eager to live up to the confidence reposed in them by their fellow-workers. This desire was not confined to age.

Tears of Joy and Laughter

The response of the delegates to the atmosphere which prevailed throughout the convention is comparable only with events which move people to tears and laughter. This was best expressed by the spontaneous demonstrations. Each event brought forth the singing of appropriate labor songs, which were led by songs parve color and atmosphere to the choruses formed by our educational department. With much enthusiasm, the "Anthem of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union" was officially adopted at the convention. And, of course, the "Victory Song of the Dreammaker" inspired the delegates no less. These songs gave color and atmosphere to the sessions and helped to develop solidarity among the delegates who came from all parts of the United States and Canada. A great many of these delegates, under

our destructive economic system, were compelled to begin work at an early age, before they had a chance to develop their personality and character. It was evident at this convention that during the nine months since they joined the International, they have been able to educate, though dormant, gifts and abilities and these found expression in the songs which many of them composed. In them they seemed to express their long-suppressed grievances. The central motif of these songs was that the International delivered them from sweatshops and inspired them with new hope and confidence in their abilities and possibilities to march on.

Symbolic Poster, mural

The influence of our educational work was felt throughout the convention. The various pamphlets which the delegates found each morning on their tables, the imposing mural, eleven by six feet, mirroring the social and educational activities of our International, the drawings representing the various activities of our Educational Department, the symbolic posters—all of these bore witness to the interest our Union is taking in the development of our members intellectually and physically. Our new members were impressed when they learned that our Union was a working-photography, that our International is striving toward a new world, that it is not satisfied with having merely a deep-paying membership, but that it wants our members to function intelligently and effectively.

The demonstrative response which greeted the reading of the report of the Educational Committee was the best testimonial to the achievements of our International as a pioneer in workers' education. At the same time it showed the place our educational work holds in the hearts and in the imagination of our membership. One heard our new members repeatedly saying that they need the assistance of our Educational Department to learn more about the labor movement. It is a most encouraging and helpful attitude.

Women

A Great Factor

The composition of the convention reflected economic and social changes and its effect on working women. Our previous conventions were visited by many wives of our delegates. At the convention this year there were many men, with the blue badges of guests. These were husbands, whose wives, busily occupied in committee rooms, were the recipients of delegates. These new opportunities opened to the women members in our Union eventually led to the development of real companionship between husband and wife and to a better understanding between parents and children.

It was an interesting moment when two women delegates nominated two other women to the General Executive Board. Although the women came from different parts of the country, with different backgrounds and environments, their nominating speeches rang with the same emotions and convictions, when they said, "When we speak about equality of races, let us extend the same equality to our sex."

Our men and women increasingly recognize the fact that not only do they have to work side by side in the factories but that they will have to work side by side in their organizations for the immediate achievement of economic improvement and to strive for our ultimate goal—a world free from poverty, misery and exploitation.

The Union's Continuity

As the delegate, new and old, were sitting side by side in the Convention Hall, assembled as a labor parliament, the continuity of our legacy in our work as part of the labor movement was strikingly evident. The delegates realized that it was not only through the efforts of their newly organized locals that they succeeded in getting improved work conditions from their employers, but mainly because their locals were a part of our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, with its old-established traditions of courage, idealism, persistence and achievement. During this period men and women in our ranks had made many sacrifices, had endured untold hardships in order to build up a union and to retain it even in days of darkest adversity.

The delegates began to realize that within an organization such social gains are transmitted from generation to generation.

eration. Just as they are reaping the fruit of the founders and pioneers of our Union, so will they benefit spiritually and intellectually from the experience and traditions which have been developed during the 17 years of our educational work.

A Word to Our New Members

We have now entered upon a new period in the life of our organization. We are writing a new and important chapter in its history. You have received a rich heritage and the further growth of our Union depends upon your devotion and understanding. Upon you falls the duty to carry on the work of the organization and to improve upon it. In this work our Educational Department is ready to assist you.

Remember: When we are about to construct something, we do not think of our immediate needs alone, but plan for the future as well. What we are now building will be appreciated by the generations that are yet to come.

Unity House Opens 1934 Season

THE PINE GROVE Open Air Theatre



Unity House ushered in its sixteenth season on Friday, June 25, 1934, on a larger scale than ever before in its history.

Nearly 1,000 guests came to the opening—delegates from locals, large groups from organizations which never before visited Unity House, and nearly the entire leadership of the I.L.G.W.U. They came by bus, by train, by automobile, and for a while, it seemed that even the resources of Unity House were taxed. After a few hours, however, everything righted itself and the great throng was accommodated in the best manner possible.

A Memorable Week-End

It was a week-end of continuous entertainment, fun and hilarity. There were outdoor concerts in the Pine Grove Theatre, indoor dancing galas, free boating and canoeing on the lake, and hiking. Above all, there were the stories of the Unity panoramas, the hills, the lake, the enchanting walks and last, but not least, the excellent and generous cuisine.

Among those who came to the opening were: President and Mrs. David Dubinsky, Vice-Presidents Indiana Nasir, Louis Levy, Louis Antofiel, Julius Hochman, Samuel Perlmutter, Nicholas Kirtzman, Rose Pasotta, Elias Reiserberg, George Rubin, Jacob Heller, Basilio Dotti, Joseph Brousal, Harry Wender; also, Max D. Dashi, editor of JUS-

TICE, and practically all the managers of the New York locals and of nearby cities. A delegation of 150 came from Philadelphia, alone, and the "Outcast" Town territory was heavily represented by large groups.

An Array of Talent

Among the artists who took part in the entertainments and concerts were: Leon Kalroff, Rosa Novakover, Yehuda Hirakow, Abe Berg, Jessy Dymov and Jeremi Bleich. Paul Desbiter and Benjamin Teitelbaum spoke at the Jewish Hour on Sunday morning at the Pine Grove Theatre.

2,000 VOLUMES In Unity's Library



A group of union members, under the direction of Fannia M. Cohn, produced on Saturday night, before the regular concert opened, a concert play of trade union life, called "One for All." On Friday night, the large hall in the casino was filled to overflowing by an audience which listened to and watched attentively a run-off of the I.L.G.W.U. film, "Marching On."

Jacob Halpern continues as manager of Unity House, with Morris A. Novik as his assistant in charge of all activities in addition to the special social work of the institution.

PIONEER YOUTH CAMP

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June 30, 1934.

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The 22nd Convention Passes in Review

By MAX D. DANISH

THE opening day meeting, in Ashland Boulevard Auditorium, was things to the ming.

An ideal morning for Chicago. A stiff breeze from "Old Man Lake" had swept the hot mist that enveloped the big city the night before, and the air felt cool and invigorating. It was a glorious morning for marching, and the parade which the Chicago organization of the I.L.G.W.U. staged as a curtain raiser for the convention, indeed, turned out to be the most colorful affair ever carried out by the women's garment workers of that city. About nine thousand dressmakers and cloakmakers, divided into three sections, each preceded by a band of music, assembled at Canal and Van Buren Streets at nine in the morning, and marched up in picturesque formation, with hundreds of flags waving and a multitude of pennants flying in the breeze, to Carmen's Hall, while thousands lined the sidewalks and cheered the paraders.

Every man in the line wore a blue "overcoat" cap with the initials, "I.L.G.W.U.," inscribed on it, while the women, dressed in white and marching four abreast, wore similar white caps. The convention delegates and the hundreds of visiting guests joined the marchers in a fleet of buses from the then convention headquarters—the Medinah Michigan Avenue Club—and both groups arrived at the Auditorium simultaneously. Within five minutes the big hall, which has a seating capacity of 4,000, was filled to overflowing, leaving several thousand people, crowding the sidewalks and filling the adjacent streets.

Speeches, orations, flowers.

Morris Blais, clear-headed, clear-eyed, fighting young leader of the Chicago forces of the I.L.G.W.U., mounts the platform as chairman of the Arrangements Committee, and welcomes, under a roar of applause, the delegates and the guests of the convention, to Chicago. It is, he states, in a place that quivers with emotion, the 47th anniversary of his life, and he pledges the name of the Chicago organization, to "make the stay of the delegates in our city as pleasant as possible." He reminds the audience that the last convention which the International held in Chicago occurred fourteen years ago, in 1920, at a time when the I.L.G.W.U. was at a high peak of prosperity. That period was followed by difficult years of struggle, with enemies on every front, external as well as internal, but the Union survived the dangerous times and has now again emerged on top. And Chicago is once more privileged to receive an International convention in its midst, at a happy moment in the life of its own greatly increased

membership and at a time of marvelous advance of the organization as a whole.

Illinois Labor's Welcome

Vice-President Blais introduces Victor A. Olander, secretary of the Illinois Federation of Labor, who greets the convention in the name of the organized workers of Illinois. Olander is followed by Alderman Oscar F. Nelson, a vice-president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, who is deputized by Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago to greet the delegates on behalf of the city administration. Both receive vociferous orations. Nelson, especially, is rewarded with loud applause as he recounts his own participation with the Chicago dressmakers on the picket lines during their recent strike and as he emphasizes that he knows of no better trade unionists than "those who compose the eight I.L.G.W.U. locals in the City of Chicago."

The temporary chairman then turns over the gavel, after a warm introduction, to President David Dubinsky, who

reminds the delegates that a little over two years ago, at the Philadelphia convention, they elected to the post of leadership of the I.L.G.W.U., a man who had not merited death taken him away from our midst shortly after that gathering," and calls upon the audience to rise in silent tribute to the unforgettable memory of Benjamin Schlesinger. The audience rises and stands still for a minute.

The Keynote Speech

In a keynote speech lasting forty-five minutes, President Dubinsky then proceeds to outline the history of the Union for the past few years, the perilous period through which it passed on its way toward eventual recovery, the effect of the NRA on the Union's activity in the past year, the great strikes which followed it and the immediate effects of the settlement of these strikes. Proudly, he refers to the fact that "the morale of our workers is today at a higher point than ever before in the history of our Union; the organization has grown to unprecedented proportions, and it has come to this twenty-second convention with 143 chartered locals and 13 joint boards, located in 73 cities and 16 states, and represented by 353 delegates."

President Dubinsky concludes his address under a storm of applause by saying: "Even at times when our efforts are not successful, even at times when we are defeated, let us not lose hope, let us not lose courage. Our cause is just and our purpose is noble. Our defects are only temporary setbacks. We are bound to win. We are already beginning to enjoy the fruits of our labor. United as never before, shoulder to shoulder, let us go marching on to our future battles and greater victories."

II.

With the festive opening ceremonies over, the convention began to settle down to business on Tuesday morning, May 29, in the main hall of the Medinah Club.

Vice-President Eldora Nagler, chairman of the Committee on Credentials, reported that his committee had found, upon examination, 360 regular delegates and 3 fraternal delegates eligible to be seated as delegates. Several contentions and objections were heard by his committee during their stay in New York

and while in session in Chicago. These objections, however, were largely ironed out. In quick order, the report of the committee was approved and the convention began to function under a legal status.

A dramatic incident occurred at that moment. Vice-President Blais read a letter from Mrs. Tillie Sigman, the widow of the former president of the International, who died in August, 1931, at Storm Lake, Iowa, in which communication she asked President Dubinsky to accept, "as a token of that warm affection and high esteem which my late husband and I always had for you," the gavel which Morris Sigman had received from Pressers' Union, Local 35, of New York, in 1924 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth jubilee convention of the I.L.G.W.U.

Deeply touched, President Dubinsky responded to Mrs. Sigman's message by saying that he "will always cherish this token and use this token which was used by one of Labor's most outstanding and beloved leaders, who gave all that a human being could possess 'in sacrifice for our cause.'" He asked the delegates to rise in silent tribute to the memory of Morris Sigman.

The Divisional Administrator Speaks

During the same morning session, the convention heard an interesting address by Mr. Sol A. Rosenblatt, NRA Divisional Administrator for the Apparel Industries, who had been invited to come to Chicago to speak to the I.L.G.W.U. delegates. Mr. Rosenblatt, in a witty and impromptu speech, spoke of his task as administrator of various codes and broadly complimented the I.L.G.W.U. for its realistic and wide-awake attitude in availing itself of all possibilities of the NRA. In referring to complaints that Labor has not gotten enough out of the NRA in many instances and that employers had benefited through organization, Mr. Rosenblatt pointed out that "Labor is itself to blame for not having done what the employers have done, for not having extended its field of activity in order to have an equal balance on both sides."

Continuing, Mr. Rosenblatt declared that "if you will be constructive with us and realize the problems which we are



all being, if you will help me, on behalf of the NRA, to enforce what we have got to build where heretofore everything was torn down, then I say to you that there is great hope for the future, great things to be done yet, and if we can only do so with help and power and with the aid and efforts of your leaders, I think that when you come into convention again you may have won a more greater cause for conspiring your selves for your own efforts as well as for the efforts of labor in general.

Shortly thereafter, the convention was treated to an address by another invited guest, one whom President Dubinsky introduced as "a representative of the martyrdom of the working class abroad." Dr. Max Winter, former Vice-Mayor of Vienna, a refugee from the Dollfus fascist regime in Austria. Dr. Winter made a stirring appeal on behalf of the persecuted Austrian Socialists and Laborites, saying that "Vienna has not only suffered and starving since February, not fighting for Vienna, but for the workers of the world. They are fighting and starving at this moment, with 5,000 comrades in prison, 300 comrades dead, 15 hanged, some thousands wounded, and with tens of thousands of children starving, homeless and in rags."

By a rising vote, the convention endorsed the appeal of Dr. Winter, referring action on this matter to a later session.

The convention heard another remarkable address delivered by Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, who stopped off at Chicago, at the request of President Dubinsky, on his way from Detroit, where he had attended the convention of the Socialist Party a few days prior. Though critical of the NRA in general, Thomas congratulated the I.L.G.W.U. upon its signal achievements in the past year. He appealed to the delegates to keep their great organization intact and to be ready for all emergencies, warning them, especially, against the drift of Fascism, which, as he stated, he noticed manifest everywhere in the country.

Thomas Warns of Fascism

"The only thing that will prevent the development of a business Fascism, business syndicalism under the aegis of the Blue Eagle, is your power to organize the unemployed, to stand shoulder and to reach, as industrial workers, an under-

standing with the farmers. No victories you seem to win, no wage scales you seem to establish, can be secure unless we are able to organize this country, and then the world, on the basis of the acceptance of abundance, which means that we own the things for which our experts plan for our use and for our enjoyment. What I am talking about is

the federation of cooperative communities of wealth of mankind, and unless speedily we are on the highroad to this goal, we shall be swept into the abyss of Fascism and war."

That same afternoon heard the report by President Dubinsky on the financial status of the I.L.G.W.U., which he illustrated by some striking paragraphs from the regular report submitted by him to the convention, the high point of which was that the Union had liquidated, during the past two years, nearly half a million dollars of old debts and has reached the convention with more than a half million dollars in its treasury. The convention hall rocked with applause as President Dubinsky cited one figure after another, bearing testimony to the remarkable financial comeback of the organization and the growth of its material prestige and stability.

The remaining part of the session was given over to a written report delivered by Vice-President Isidore Nagler, General Manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, on the entire cloak and suit situation in the New York market. Vice-President Nagler's report came to an end with a personal address to President Dubinsky, which he characterized as an utterance of "the voice of the pioneer organization of the I.L.G.W.U., the New York Cloakmakers' Joint Board." He stated that he was delegated by the Joint Board to perform a delicate mission, a mission that he was ready to execute in a spirit of loyalty, respect and gratitude.

Nagler Reviews Cloak Field

"They," Vice-President Nagler said, "the New York cloakmakers, gave you to the International, to the countless thousands in our allied crafts, to whom you have brought dignity and self-respect and a larger measure of security than they have ever known. Despite your rise to great heights, through a leadership that commands the respect of the nation, you have remained one of our own. In every phase of your growth you have re-

tained your simplicity and humanity. Easy to approach, forthright in your relations, you, our brother, have kept our love and our friendship."

"Brother President, we bring you a gift. It is no attempt to repay you, for your accomplishments in our behalf are measureless. Our gift is a token of the admiration and love which we hold for you. You will, therefore, look upon this gift as a memento of our affection and the love, the caring, the loving art and the craftsmanship which have gone into this painting, are symbols of our enduring love and esteem."

From the balcony of the convention hall, at that moment, descended a group of officers of the New York Cloak Joint Board, headed by Secretary Louis E. Langer, President Nathan Bookman and Treasurer Morris J. Ashbee, carrying a life-size painting of President Dubinsky. As soon as the convention caught sight of this, it rose, and in a frenzy of enthusiasm, began to parade with the portrait through the aisle, singing the anthem of the I.L.G.W.U. and other labor songs. The outburst of cheers and orations lasted almost a half hour.

President Dubinsky was so touched that for several minutes he could hardly speak. After the cheers died down, the painting was mounted on the platform. All he said was the following few words: "You have given me something that I really believe does not belong to me because, after all, I have only done what anyone of us should do. This movement does not owe me anything. I owe everything to it. The more work I do, the more joy I find, the greater is my reward."

III

Ingersoll Speaks for La Guardia

It became evident that the convention could not get down to serious business until the beginning of the second week as the various committees to which the resolutions were being referred would not be ready with their reports for several days. President Dubinsky, therefore, organized the work of the sessions so as to give the guest speakers, invited to the convention, an opportunity to address the delegates during the first week.

There was another matter to consider. The Chicago Arrangements Committee had laid out a generous program of festivities for the delegates, including din-

ners, sight-seeing trips and dances, and that could not be shunted aside.

On the morning of the third day, the convention heard an interesting talk by Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, president of the Borough of Brooklyn, who came to Chicago to represent Mayor La Guardia of New York at the I.L.G.W.U. gathering. The delegates gave Mr. Ingersoll, who for seven years had been the impartial

of New York, a rousing reception as he declared that "on behalf of Mayor La Guardia, and in my own behalf, I congratulate you upon the position which you have attained. You have a good organization and an able leadership. You can do much to help your own membership, much to stabilize a complex industry and much to promote the general welfare."

The convention voted to send a telegram of thanks to Mayor La Guardia for his thoughtfulness in sending Borough President Ingersoll to represent him.

An interesting demonstration, lasting fifteen minutes, broke out at this session when Delegate Jean Brock, representing Local 107 of Long Island City, presented to President Dubinsky a flower horseshoe on behalf of the delegates of the Eastern Out-of-Town Districts, for "good luck and with gratitude for the remarkable opening speech" which she wished all the 25,000 members of the locale in that territory could have heard.

"25,000 Strong"

After a representative of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Mr. Benj. Weinberg, spoke for several minutes, expressing the thanks of his organization for the loyal support given by I.L.G.W.U. locals in New York and other cities to the work which the "HIAS" was carrying on in aiding Jewish refugees from persecution and the

sion all over the world, President Dubinsky called upon Vice-President Hochman, general manager of the Dress Joint Board of New York, to give the delegates a review of the life and activities of the organization entrusted to his managerial care for the past two years. Brother Hochman responded with a talk, lasting over a half hour, covering the main events of the great organizing and strike movement of the New York dressmakers, and winding up with a presentation of what he termed, a "little souvenir" to the convention, a splendid journal named "25,000 Strong," containing an illustrated story of the rise of the dressmakers from



a lively state to organization heights during the past year.

Vice-President Hochman's address was rewarded by the convention with a ten-minute demonstration which President Dubinsky followed by a warm tribute to the membership of the locals affiliated with the Joint Board of the Dressmakers' Unions due to the industry's move upon the dress industry recovery a reality—in addition to General Manager Hochman, Brothers Anshel, Zimmerman, Portnitzer, Max Cohen and many others "too numerous to mention."

In the afternoon of that day, the delegates, their friends and hundreds of Chicago members of the I.L.G.W.U. were guests of the Chicago Joint Board on a sight-seeing trip, which ended up with a fish dinner at Navy Pier on Lake Michigan.

IV.

The fourth day also began with addresses, as none of the committees was ready with reports.

Brother Morris Feinstein, secretary of the United Hebrew Trades of New York, a guest of the convention, delivered a talk to the delegates. He dwelt largely on the duty which the I.L.G.W.U. owes to its newly acquired membership and the vast material of yet untrained men and women who came into the organization during the "great drive" in the second half of 1933. "I feel," Bro. Feinstein said, "that at this moment it is highly important for the International to absorb all of its new membership into its old tradition, for strength lies as much in spiritual unity as in physical unity. In the unknown situation which the future holds for you, it will be impossible to shift responsibilities without grave results to society and the individual. There of the only way it being prepared against war, is an emergency to track all new members that they are here to give as well as receive—that unionism is an active, not a passive role for the individual—that by giving to the Union, they give to themselves."

The Furriers Are Grateful

Feinstein was followed by Brother Harold Goldstein, first vice-president of the Furriers' International Union, who expressed the gratitude of his organization for the magnanimous attitude of the International and its New York locals and joint boards in supporting the furriers of New York in the desperate fight for survival. "In spite of all brutality, in spite of all the inhuman attacks of the Communist gangs upon our members, we are forging ahead. The fur workers, who have made up their minds to belong to the American Federation of Labor, are making wonderful strides. The biggest shops in the industry are today under the control of the International Fur Workers' Union, and no one is more responsible for that than the I.L.G.W.U., with President Dubinsky and his associates on the General Executive Board and the leaders of the various locals who have consistently and regularly come to our aid," Brother Goldstein concluded.

Immediately thereafter, President Dubinsky called upon Rose Schneiderman, who had been in attendance as a guest of the convention from the first day it opened, to address the delegates.

Miss Schneiderman, president of the National Women's Trade Union League and the only woman member of the Labor Advisory Board of the NRA, delivered a masterful address, the gist of which centered on the great historic contribution of the I.L.G.W.U. to the cause of organization of women workers in America. She stressed briefly the early struggle of the Union, in which she,



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herself, had taken a leading part, and dwelt at length on the recent enrollment by the I.L.G.W.U. of nearly a hundred thousand women workers in every branch of the garment industry all over the land. "My organization," Miss Schneiderman said, "is happy and rejoices with you in your new-born strength, but I want to say to you, President Dubinsky, that you can triple your membership if you are determined upon it. There are still hundreds of thousands of women who do sewing and who rightfully belong in your ranks and who are not there, and it seems to me that you owe them the possibility of coming into the I.L.G.W.U. because they have no other place to which to turn. I believe the women in your organization have proved to you their loyalty and their devotion and that at all times they, when called upon, have just as ably and as devotedly served the Union as any of the male members of your organization."

President Dubinsky warmly thanked Miss Schneiderman for her genuine and consistent interest in the welfare of the members of the I.L.G.W.U. and expressed the hope that for many more years she would be of continuous service to the labor movement.

The Capmakers' Salute

He then introduced, amidst the applause of the entire convention, Max Zaritsky, the leader of the Cap and Millinery Workers, an organization which he characterized as "one of the very few progressive labor organizations in this country that can boast of obtaining marvelous results for their members."

In a stirring address, President Dubinsky brought the greetings of the cap and millinery workers, now united into one international union with the haters, to the I.L.G.W.U. "To me these messages of the two fronts of two very fine organizations is more significant than some people may think. We were here together 14 years ago in this city and at that time our General Executive Board invaded your convention. And we were very happy and we are happy right now to have invaded your convention at this

time. We fought side by side. We conducted our organization campaigns together in the same places and at the same time. Our staffs and field organizers worked hand in hand. Your leaders and ours consulted together, framed policies together. We have, physically, two organizations, but, spiritually, we are one. We speak the same language, the language of labor."

"We frankly admit, and we are ready to admit, that the NRA has opened up many opportunities to carry the gospel of labor to the millions of unorganized workers. But the NRA is not an organizer. It is in the struggles which your organization and ours have conducted that the key to our successes lies. And so I say to you, let us not depend upon things given to us, upon rights granted to us; let us rely entirely and only upon our own forces, upon the strength of the organization of labor."

Brother Zaritsky received a tumultuous ovation when he ended his address.

Before the session ended, a large bouquet of roses was brought to the platform by a delegation of Local 22, consisting of colored workers. Miss Edith Riley, a delegate of Local 22, presented this offering in the name of the 4,000 Negro dressmakers of the local, and asserted that the Union has brought to them a measure of economic security, has raised their wages to a living standard and has shortened their hours of labor. More than that, Miss Riley said, the Union has turned the noble phrase of solidarity and fraternity of all labor into a reality. It has championed complete equality of workers, of all races in the shop, and has fought against discrimination and race prejudice in all fields of social life.

V.

The fifth day of the convention opened with an extensive report on the Eastern Out-of-Town situation, delivered by Harry Wander. In a terse, concise address, Delegate Wander spoke in the name of the 25,000 newly-organized workers located in the section covering a string of small industrial towns in New Jersey, Connecticut, Long Island, West

Chester County and upstate New York. He emphasized the point that less than a year ago these masses of workers were toiling under the most miserable conditions, many of them working from 55 to 60 hours a week without having anything to say about wages, hours or the right to their jobs. Today, these workers are under the banner of the Union and realize the value of organization.

Brother Wander stressed the point that while the NRA has been helpful, to some extent, in arousing public opinion against sweatshop conditions in that industry, credit for the achievements in the Eastern Out-of-Town Department territory is due, largely, to the driving, irrepresible energy of the organizing forces of the Union and, in a great many instances, to the leadership of the newly-organized locals. He paid tribute to President Dubinsky for his generalship and inspiration in encouraging the men and women in charge of the campaign in the out-of-town district.

Dr. Price, Schlesinger Follow

Following Brother Wander, President Dubinsky invited Dr. George M. Price, the director of the Union Health Center, to address the delegates. Dr. Price expressed happiness over the fact that the General Executive Board has finally decided to make the Union Health Center secure by taking over its management completely under its supervision. He spoke of the value of the Center to the membership of the International, of the pioneering efforts of the International in the field of social medicine, and concluded with the hope that the Union Health Center will remain a permanent monument to the vision and idealism of the I.L.G.W.U. and of its unremitting service to its membership in every field of human endeavor.

Emil Schlesinger, counsel for the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board, was the next speaker called upon by President Dubinsky to address the convention. Schlesinger referred to the leadership of his father, the late Benjamin Schlesinger, who was president of the I.L.G.W.U. for many years, as one who helped



President & General Staff of I.L.G.W.U.
The General Association of the I.L.G.W.U.
General Association of the I.L.G.W.U.

to build the International and who laid the foundation for its present greatness.

"But my father left behind a fearless, able, conscientious lieutenant, who, when the time came, took the reins of leadership and, in his own right, brought the great mass of needle trades workers into the Promised Land. I am happy to say that nothing gives me greater satisfaction, nor would have given my father greater satisfaction, than to know that it was David Dubinsky, who was the man destined to complete the job he began many years ago."

Emil Schlessinger was given a rising vote of thanks when he concluded his address.

That same morning, Vice-President Julius Hochman, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, delivered a partial report of the committee, after which President Dubinsky called upon Thomas Evans, a delegate from the Atlanta Local, No. 112, one of the recently organized units of the I.L.G.W.U. in the South, to tell the delegates of some of his experiences in bringing together the dress workers of his city into a trade union.

Brother Evans' address was heard with keen interest by the delegates and he was generously applauded when he concluded by saying that "with proper efforts on the part of the International, by the end of this year Atlanta will be, for the first time in the history of the labor movement, a closed union town as far as the garment industry is concerned." He also mentioned the fact that in the vicinity of Atlanta there are a number of dress plants which have run away from the Union to "heat" labor. He expressed the hope, however, that the I.L.G.W.U. will soon be able to reach even these runaway plants, some of them in Georgia, and others in the Carolinas and in Mississippi.

VL

The afternoon session of the fifth day began with a statement by Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo, who, as treasurer of the fund for the relief of Austrian refugees, reported the collection of \$1,125.27. This report received the hearty approval of the convention.

Next came a talk by Sister Sadie Retsch, a member of the executive board of the Women's Trade Union League and an active organizer in the recent out-of-town campaigns of the I.L.G.W.U. Miss Retsch, who has been a member of the New York dressmakers' union for the past twenty years, related some of her experiences as organizer in Connecticut, of the dismal beginnings which at times appeared hopeless, and of the glorious triumph in the end. She implored the women delegates present to bear in mind, after coming back to their localities, that only by dint of hard labor and application to their duties may they hope to retain the gains achieved during the past year.

Miss Retsch was given a vote of thanks by the convention for the fine work she did in Connecticut for the Out-of-Town Department, as well as for the local services rendered by her in Toronto in the dressmakers' strike in 1931.

The Knitgoods Settlement

At that moment, President Dubinsky read to the delegates a chapter from the report of the General Executive Board on "The Knitted Garment Workers of New York, Local 155," discussing the jurisdictional trouble between the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers in that industry and expressing the hope that the American Federation of Labor would find a way of straightening out this wrangling between two international unions, thereby assuring the knitted garment workers humane labor conditions in their shops.

After reading this section, President Dubinsky stated that he was as sorry for this controversy as anyone and that he is happy to announce that this matter was finally settled. He, thereupon, displayed to the delegates an agreement between and signed by the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers only a few days before the convention opened. He stressed the point that both organizations have defined a mode of procedure for controlling the unlicensed shops and for further activity by organizing Joint Councils to apply to every market where knitted garments are be-

ing manufactured. Both internationals are to have supervision over work conditions, the United Textile Workers to control the workers making the materials from which the garments are manufactured, while the I.L.G.W.U. is to control the workers actually making the garments. As the garment workers constitute a majority of the workers in the industry, the greatest burden of control will naturally devolve upon the I.L.G.W.U.

To demonstrate the unity between the two international unions, President Dubinsky continued, he had invited President Thomas F. McMahon of the United Textile Workers to address the convention. He had accepted the invitation but, unfortunately, was unable to reach Chicago owing to the threatened strike in the textile industry.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor arrived at the hall at that moment and was escorted to the platform amidst a demonstration of applause and flag-waving. But, before the applause for President Green had died out, Delegate Edward Molinar, on behalf of Local 48, the Italian Clockmakers' Union of New York, rose at the head of his delegation, and announced that his local had dedicated a plaque to President Dubinsky and wished to present it to him. A band of music came down the center aisle, followed by the delegation of Local 48, with banners waving and singing labor hymns.

The Local 48 Plaque

The entire convention was thrown into fervent excitement when Vice-President Ninfo came up on the platform, unfolded a beautifully bound parchment scroll, and began reading from it a dedication to President Dubinsky. Right alongside of him there stood, on an easel, a marvellous bronze plaque with the figure of the president of the I.L.G.W.U. in bas relief. The demonstration which broke out after Brother Ninfo concluded his dedication lasted for more than fifteen minutes.

Overwhelmed by this display of genuine devotion and loyalty, President Dubinsky was barely able to respond to this presentation. In a voice filled with

emotion he told the committee of Local 48 that "nothing in the world—no reward, no prize—will be dearer to me than the memory of the gift that comes to me from the members of Local 48."

Following that, Vice-President Danti presented a replica of the plaque to President Green, who responded with a few appreciative remarks. Printed copies of the replica were also distributed to all representatives and placed on the various joint boards.

The session was concluded by an address delivered by President Green, which lasted nearly an hour. At its conclusion, the entire convention rose and applauded vociferously. The complete text of President Green's speech will be found in the next issue of "Justice."

VII

Saturday morning, June 2, marked the end of the first week of the convention. Soon after the session opened, President Dubinsky announced that Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, together with Samuel Layton, manager of the Amalgamated in Chicago, were in the hall and they were escorted to the platform. Simultaneously, it also became known that Major Byrnes H. Otis, chairman of the Dress Code Authority, had arrived, and he was at once asked to the platform.

President Dubinsky then called up William D. Lopez, the representative of the organized workers of Puerto Rico, to address the delegates. Brother Lopez had reached Chicago the previous day and was to speak to the convention, at the arrival of President Wm. Green he interfered with his address.

Puerto Rico's Voice

Brother Lopez, in a comprehensive and instructive address, described to the delegates the condition of the Puerto Rican workers on his native island, the growth and evolution of these trades and the need to organize the local garment workers. He also talked of the general labor situation in Puerto Rico, of the political movement of the workers and of their success in gaining considerable political power on the island. At present, about 5,000 needle trades workers are in the Puerto Rico State Federation of Labor, but these represent only a fifth of the workers in these trades, as the other 45,000 are home-workers exploited beyond belief by the employers and their agents. "I assure you," he said, "that the Puerto Rican workers are not scabs, are not docile cheap labor, but we need your help, we need your cooperation and support. I am not exaggerating in stating that with that cooperation we expect to bring, within the year, forty or fifty thousand workers under the banner of this International Union."

President Dubinsky, after Brother Lopez concluded his speech, assured him that the General Executive Board, which had brought in a recommendation for organizing aid to Puerto Rico would go through with its plan and would, shortly after the convention adjourns, start a campaign for thorough unionization on the island.

The next to address the convention was George W. Alger, the chairman of the Cost and Suit Code Authority and Imperial chairmen of the Cost and Suit industry of New York, whose President Dubinsky introduced in glowing terms one who "has won the admiration and respect of all our officers and workers who have come in contact with him."

Chairman Alger Greets

Mr. Alger spoke at length of his contacts with the garment industry for a number of years past, and mentioned in warm terms the leaders of the workers

who had passed away since the last convention in Philadelphia. Sam Richelmer and Morris Hillgart, and the great services they had rendered to the workers and to the industry. He spoke in terms of high praise of President Dubinsky and General Manager Napier of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, of New York, and proceeded to describe the present state, in some of the most successful industry as he viewed it. "In this year since the NRA came into existence," Mr. Alger said, "the Union has not only regained its lost ground but by courageous and able negotiation has consolidated all its gains. It has won new power and respect from every legitimate factor in the industry. Common necessity has proved an effective schoolmaster not only in the industry but out of it."

"But," he added, "in this year of experimentation under the Recovery Administration, it has been demonstrated beyond any shadow of a doubt that a strong union is the best background for a good code. In those branches of industry where the Union has strength of members and integrity of leadership, enforcement of the Code becomes effective." He declared that the NRA Label, as an instrument for code enforcement, is of inestimable value and has already proved exceedingly effective in maintaining industrial standards as far as labor and hours are concerned. He cited concrete examples to prove it.

He concluded his speech by saying that he "realizes that there are defects in the Recovery Act and that he is not an untried observer of its operations, but is trying to make it succeed so far as our industry is concerned."

Chairman Alger was given a prolonged ovation when he concluded his address.

President Dubinsky next called on Sidney Hillman, chief of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, to speak. By way of introduction, Brother Dubinsky first read the letter sent by him to President Hillman immediately after the Coat and Suit Code was signed on August 7, 1933, thanking him in the name of the I.L.G.W.U. for his helpfulness in attaining the work terms contained in that code. When Brother Hillman got up to speak, the convention rose and applauded him to the echo.

President Hillman spoke for nearly an

hour, dwelling at great length on his personal impressions and experiences as a member of the NRA Labor Advisory Board, in code formation and code enforcement. He said that he pondered it a privilege to have been called in by the leaders of the I.L.G.W.U. for advice during the code hearings in Washington and that he was happy to have contributed to the National Industrial Recovery Act, he said, "though far be it from me to state that it is a perfect instrumentality or that the National Recovery Administration has administered the Act in every case according to the purpose of those who have put that Act into effect and made it the law of the land."

Hillman Gets Ovation

"I have just read a part of the report of your General Executive Board where, as I understand it, you are coming out for the 30-hour week. I would not at all guarantee you that when you meet again in convention, within two years, thirty hours would be sufficient to reemploy all your idle workers. It is up to us to insist that the clause for shortening the work day must be carried on so that employment is given to all. We cannot have some people idle and other people re-employed at long hours."

"I am happy to be with you," President Hillman added, "because yours is the kind of an organization that will make the NRA what we want it to be. With organizations like yours, we shall need very few amendments to the law. Let us dedicate ourselves to the task of bringing organization within each and every industry in the country."

The audience rose again and applauded. The presentation of a wreath of flowers by the delegation of Local 1, the Cloak Operators of New York, served as an occasion for a demonstration, followed by short talks by several delegates on the present healthy and vigorous condition of this local which only a couple of years ago suffered from confusion and factional strife.

President Dubinsky then introduced Major Hyman H. Gitchell, chairman of the Dress Code Authority, who spoke of his contacts with labor for a long period of years, his experiences in settling indus-

trial disputes during and after the War, and his strong allegiance to the principle of labor representation on all code authorities. "I am glad," he concluded his speech, "that accident has placed me in the position where I now find myself, and as long as I can serve the industry by continuing in that position, I am glad to be able to do so."

The beginning of the second week, Monday, June 4, found the I.L.G.W.U. convention meeting not in the Medinah Michigan Avenue Club, but in the Morrison Hotel. Let President Dubinsky's remarks at the start of the morning session on that day serve as an explanation for that change of place.

Said President Dubinsky:

"When the Medinah Club was rented by us for this convention some two months ago, we were promised all reasonable accommodations. The management was anxious to have us meet in that place; they solicited our patronage. We advised them that we had representatives of all nationalities at our convention and that we were a labor union and did not share in racial prejudices and wanted all our delegates to be treated on an equal footing. They promised us that there would be no discrimination."

"From the first moment, however, that we stepped into that hotel, it appeared that they didn't intend to live up to their promises. We were able to secure their failure to live up to promises as far as housing all our delegates and giving us proper service, were concerned, but there was one thing we could not swallow—discrimination against some of our delegates."

We Move to the Morrison

"Such discrimination was reported to us on several occasions during the convention. We took up the matter with the management and received assurances that they would be corrected. We gave them a chance to correct them, but finally we saw that even their final assurances were not being lived up to, and last Saturday, before adjourning the convention, I asked the General Executive Board to meet with me on Sunday morning. We invited a representative of Local 22 to be present, and the General Executive Board decided that, regardless of additional expense, our organization,

which is committed to the spirit of equality, of justice and of resistance to oppression and inequality, should actively resist that discrimination, and we decided to move our convention out of that hotel."

"This should serve as evidence to those who suffer from race persecution everywhere that it is the labor movement

merely with words, but by supporting words with proper action."

This statement was greeted with tumultuous approval. Following this, Mr. Samuel Markewich, attorney for the New York Cloak Joint Board, invited by President Dubinsky to come to the convention, addressed the delegates, expressing the hope that "the organized workers will carry on the fight until some day they will get the maximum fruits of their labor."

Lieberman Chasin, Giovanitti Speak

Markewich was followed by Elias Lieberman, attorney for the International, who made a special appeal for the smaller trades affiliated with the I.L.G.W.U. and for the necessity of greater care of their interests. Lieberman said: "Our industry has two great trades, coats and dresses. These are capably taken care of by old, solid organizations everywhere. The smaller locals, however, need the machinery and the constant help of the International. It is necessary for the International to create such machinery so that the many thousands of workers in the miscellaneous trades shall be given required assistance. I want to tell you delegates that I feel like a soldier in your army and, therefore, command, and I shall obey."

Commissioner of Labor Joseph M. Tene of Connecticut, another guest, was then called upon, and in a short talk, he congratulated the I.L.G.W.U. upon its splendid work in helping to exterminate the sweatshops of every state in Connecticut, adding the hope that "since your organization has reached the position that you are in now, you must so conduct your affairs as to retain that position and not only retain but go forward."

Nathan Chasin, secretary of the Jewish Socialist Verband, was the next speaker, and he was greeted by an outburst of applause as he declared: "There

New General Executive Board, I. L. G. W. U., 1934-1936



Top Row, left to right: Luigi Antonelli, first vice-president; Fred F. Umhey, executive secretary; George Ruble, Basilio Desli, Jacob J. Heller.

Second Row: Louis Levy, Elias Lieberg, Philip Kremer, Israel Feinberg, Chas. Kreindler, Morris Blalis, Nicholas Kirtzman.

Third Row: Julius Hochman, Salvatore Ninio, President David Dubinsky, Isidore Nagler, Joseph Breslaw.

Fourth Row: Charles Zimmerman, Abraham Kotovsky, Ross Pasotta, Harry Wanders, Samuel Perlmutter, Harry Greenberg.

were those not so long ago when, all these allied with the various sections of our movement were despairing for its future and your International was among those who were affected worst in that tumbrel of reaction. And today all your friends and admirers rejoice with you in the fact that you have won a permanent and enduring nature."

Arturo Giovannitti, whom President Dubinsky introduced as a "great poet, orator and journalist, who voices the hopes and thoughts of the Italian workers," next spoke and stirred the entire convention to a high pitch of enthusiasm. A representative of the Jewish labor organizations in Poland—the Bund—Brother L. Mendelson, made a short talk, bringing greetings of the trade unionists of that country to the I.L.G.W.U., and was given generous applause. He was followed by Sol Peckoff, delegate of Local 177, a former first vice-president of the I.L.G.W.U. in Iowa. Peckoff was given an ovation as he said, "I hope that when we celebrate the 50th anniversary, I shall be still among you and celebrate with you not only that event but also the complete emancipation of all men and women who toil for a living in this great world."

The afternoon session of that day, after a Committee on Organization, which Vice-President Breslaw was chairman, delivered a part of its report, was greeted by speeches from Hilbert Rosen, managing editor of the "Jewish Daily Forward," who greeted the convention in the name of his chief, the veteran editor of that publication, Abraham Cahan, and Judge Jacob Fanken. The latter aroused the delegates to high enthusiasm when he declared: "Let us hope that out of this convention will come a strong attack which will be laid on a corner upon which we will build in America a conscious, class-conscious working-class political party to take over the government of our country."

Among the other speakers during that afternoon were Rose Penzola, and Vice-President Israel Feinberg, Pacific Coast organizers, who talked on work conditions and union achievements in that part of the country and thanked the International for the generous assistance given the California workers in their efforts to organize their shops.

IX.

The sixth day of the convention opened with a speech by Arthur E. Hungerford, NRA Compliance Director for the State of Maryland, who spoke of the enforcement of minimum wages in Baltimore garment shops and his determination to follow through observance of work conditions at all cost. "We have begun the advance," Mr. Hungerford said, "we can never go back. For the good of all we must keep on." At the end of his speech, Vice-President Kravitz of Baltimore complimented him as the man who "made the biggest chieftain in Baltimore pay back to the workers about \$2,540 as restitution."

Flood of Addresses Continues

A talk by Joseph Sprink, representative of the "Histadrut," Federation of Jewish Labor in Palestine, was received with loud applause by the delegates, followed by a short address by Miss Annabelle Glenn, editor of the Junior Union Section of the American Federationist, who asked the delegates to subscribe to it for the children and young friends. After that, President Dubinsky introduced Brother Samuel Levine, the leader of the Amalgamated in Chicago, who brought out the point that the growth of the I.L.G.W.U. has served also to strengthen the entire labor move-

ment in the needle trade. He also congratulated the leadership of the Union for having moved the convention out of the Madinah Club, an act which "encourages real hope of human solidarity."

A strong appeal for the "O.R.T.", the worldwide organization, manager in charge, a speech by the president and declared Jews in many European countries, was next heard from Alexander Kahn, who said, among other things, that "by keeping contact with the working class on the other side you are not aiding only them but serving yourselves, because in the long run, among the working men and women of all countries unite and work for the one goal and aim, there is no hope for the working class of any country."

He was followed by George E. Hoover, attorney for the I.L.G.W.U. in Boston, whom President Dubinsky introduced not only as the counsel for the organization but as one "within our own country." Conclude Hoover spoke of his delight upon seeing so many women delegates and colored delegates present and said that he was always of the opinion that "if the trade union or the Socialist movement could win over a substantial body of the women of America they would make a short job of destroying the ineptitude capitalist system."

Crowswell, Vice-Chairman, Stirs Convention

Immediately after that, President Dubinsky introduced the well-known leader of labor and Socialism among the Negroes, Frank Crowswell, who delivered an impassioned oration which held the delegates spellbound for nearly an hour. He touched upon the action taken by the O. E. B. in moving the convention from the Madinah Club on account of race discrimination and warmly commended them for it, and then proceeded to describe the high points in the situation of the labor class all over the world and in the United States, the effects of the dictatorships in the Fascist-ruled parts of Europe, and the current rumblings of Fascism in this country, as well. He concluded his talk by saying: "The white workers of the United States will never be able to free themselves from the shackles of capitalism unless the Negro workers also are free. If we are going to be free, we have got to be free together on the basis of our common economic interest. In this crucial moment of capitalist breakdown, let the I.L.G.W.U. be inspired by that slogan and by that ideal, and march from success to success until at last we have a free world for all workers' world." Crowswell's address was rewarded by thunderous applause, demonstrations and singing of labor hymns by the delegates.

The next guest speaker to address the convention was B. C. Vlaseck, general manager of the "Jewish Daily Forward" whom President Dubinsky introduced in glowing terms as a man "who has had a great share in the success of our Union, who is a part of us and is vitally concerned with everything we do." Vlaseck, who came to the convention straight from the Socialist Party convention in Detroit, was received very warmly by the delegates. He was applauded loudly when he said: "The greatest miracle that I ever had been privileged to observe was the rebirth of your organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. I greet you and urge you to greater miracles and greater victories until the working class of this country as a whole will be as strong, as enthusiastic and as progressive and united as your organization."

Before the morning session came to an end, Mr. Richard Rohman, one of the newspapermen present, read, on be-

half of his colleagues at the press tables, a testimonial of appreciation to President Dubinsky for his courteous treatment of the members of the "Fourth estate" at the convention, and in general, and presented it, both on behalf of the press, a clear case "with our admiration and love. We are convinced that as long as you keep it, a warm and generous heart will beat against it."

The afternoon session of the eighth day was taken up by reports of the Committee on Resolutions, which the delegates on Resolutions, save for a half hour taken up by an address delivered by the Governor of Illinois, Henry H. Horner.

Governor Horner expressed to the delegates greeting and welcome from the State of Illinois and expressed the hope that the I.L.G.W.U. would "grow stronger and broader in your efforts."

The morning of the ninth day was devoted to discussion of resolutions presented by the Committee on Resolutions.

Before the session closed, however, the convention heard an address delivered by Matthew Wolf, Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, of whom President Dubinsky, in his introductory remarks, spoke of as "an old friend of the International, who has the courage of his convictions to state his opinions freely, irrespective of criticism from any side."

Vice-President Wolf spoke of the importance of consolidating gains and making secure advantages in work conditions achieved by labor unions at this time. This, he said, is all-important. "For what does it serve, if we gain the world today and lose all our victories tomorrow? Rather it is essential that we construct our movement on a permanent, sound and constantly progressive and militant basis." He also referred to the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, of which he is president, and thanked President Dubinsky for the participation of the I.L.G.W.U. in the activities of this labor insurance organization.

The afternoon of the ninth day was consumed largely by a report of the Committee on Law, which Vice-President Salvatore Nifio was chairman.

Before the session came to a close, the delegates were treated to an interesting address delivered by Jay Lovestone, to whom President Dubinsky referred as the "spokesman of the Communist Party Opposition." "There are delegates on Law, who are in this convention who belong to this group," said President Dubinsky, "and while we politically differ and disagree, the fact that this group is committed against dual unionism entitles him to be in our midst."

Jay Lovestone Speaks to Delegates

Lovestone spoke for nearly half an hour and outlined in detail the stand of the political group which he represents with regard to the trade union movement in the United States. He is delegate on Law, which Vice-Communists to be the most constructive fighters inside the trade unions, which we consider the most all-inclusive, the most basic organization of the working people, taking in people of all colors, all creeds and all political opinions." He sharply criticized the NRA and expressed the fear that it would lead to the multiplication of company unions and, through them, to Fascism. Before closing, he pledged the aid of his group to the struggles of the workers in their unions against the employers, on the picket lines and everywhere else.

Lovestone's speech was well received by the delegates, and after he concluded President Dubinsky commented from the platform that while the speaker has a right to disagree in the NRA and to assert that it has done nothing for the workers, the fact still remains that the NRA has done considerable for the workers in the garment and the textile industries. "We have a right," President Dubinsky continued, "to come forth with our opinions, express them, criticize, educate and win supporters. This is the normal procedure of the labor movement, and anyone who opposes himself in that manner is welcome within our ranks and is welcome to our platform."

The tenth day begins with a report of the Committee on Unemployment Insurance, Old Age Pensions and Sick Benefits.

After its report was concluded and the committee was discharged with thanks, a short speech was made by Professor Giuseppe Bertelli, who spoke in Italian, as representative of the Italian section of the Socialist Party, and whose talk was received with warm approval by the delegates.

Vice-President Betshes, chairman of the Committee on I.L.G.W.U. Institutions, delivered a report for his committee which was approved by the convention. At that point, Vice-President Nagler, reporting for the Committee on Credentials, stated that it had voted to send Martin Pieltz as alternate delegate from the International Clothing Workers' Federation, located in Amsterdam, Holland. Martin Pieltz was thereupon welcomed to the platform and President Dubinsky introduced him as "an exile welcome in our midst, whom we want to stay here with us as long as it will be necessary for him to do so, because I know that he feels lonely here and wants to go back to his work, to his post."

Brother Pieltz, under a storm of applause, rose to thank the delegates for their truly brotherly attitude toward him and delivered an impassioned speech on behalf of the victims of the Fascist reaction in Europe, pleading for ever greater help by their behalf as security for the maintenance of democratic and labor institutions the world over. Brother Pieltz spoke in German.

Committees Begin to Report

In the afternoon, Chairman Harry Wender presented a report of the Committee on National and International Relations, and Vice-President Heller reported for the Committee on Pensions. Both reports were approved by the convention.

Later in the day, the Committee on Appeals, headed by Vice-President Philip Kramer, reported on two cases which were brought to it for consideration. The first appeal came from two members, former officers of Local 9, against the decision of the General Executive Board, which barred them from holding office for a period of two years. The Committee, after an exhaustive discussion on the appeal, recommended, by a majority of 11 to 4, its dismissal. The second appeal was brought in by delegates, one representing Local 1 and the other, Local 22. An extensive debate ensued on this subject in which took Delegate Nathan, North, Hochman and Schweitzer. President Dubinsky wound up the discussion, 244 members of the Committee, was carried by an overwhelming vote.

The session came to a close after a short address by Peter Bluman, a veteran labor attorney of Chicago, former partner of Clarence Darrow and one of the oldest members of the I.L.G.

W.U. in that city. He was introduced by President Dubinsky as a leader, a teacher and also as the lawyer of the workers of that great city.

"The first requirement for a union man," Brother Hissman said, among other things, "is to have a genuine desire in solidarity, which simply means that he must have a desire to be helpful to his fellow-men, a desire to cooperate—not merely to achieve a better life for himself, but a desire to enable his fellow-men, likewise, to achieve a better life. And that means and implies a willingness to sacrifice something of yours for your fellow-men. Our Union was born of these ideals. It has been maintained with these ideals and, fortunately for us, it has been led most of the time by men who were inspired by ideals and who also had practical sense enough to realize the immediate possibilities and to see what could be achieved in the immediate future. We hope that you all will be inspired by these same ideals."

The eleventh day of the convention, Friday, June 15, was given over entirely to business.

One committee after another reported, submitting recommendations for approval or disapproval of resolutions, or in proposing amendments. Among the committees on that day were the Committee on Law, Committee on Legislation and Adjustment, Committee on Education, Committee on Shorter Work-Week and the Committee on Officers' Report.

The last committee, of which Abraham G. Katsky of Cleveland was chairman, was Samuel Twissman, secretary, presented an extensive review of the entire work of the International for the past two years, based on the report of the General Executive Board. Not a single activity of the I.L.G.W.U. was omitted from the report of the Committee on Officers' Report, and, on the whole, the Committee recommended the full approval of the policies and the tactics of the General Executive Board pursued since the last convention.

Only on one subject did there arise a sharp disagreement, namely, on the stand of the Union towards the N.R.A. from which a minority dissented and presented its own report. Delegate Charles Zimmerman of Local 22 spoke for the minority. (A complete account of the minority and the majority report and the discussion on the subject will be found in the complete and revised proceedings of the convention which will be issued shortly.)

The Committee on Officers' Report completed its review by paying high tribute to President Dubinsky for his masterly handling of the affairs of the Union, both organizational and financial, during the past two years.

XI.

On the evening of that day, Friday, June 15, a short session was held, principally for the purpose of listening to a radio broadcast over Station WBYD, which came over from New York, and was carried by a number of Eastern stations, and an additional broadcast by the NBC over a national hookup which carried a speech by General Hugh E. Johnson, National N.R.A. Administrator, in the form of an address to the I.L.G.W.U. Convention.

The session opened at 8:24, and for half an hour Vice-President Hochman, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, reported out a number of resolutions, submitting them to discussion and vote.

The appearance of Mayor Edward J. Kelly of Chicago brought the delegates to their feet, and they applauded him vociferously when, in a short address, he thanked the convention for having

come to Chicago, and asked for their support of the World's Fair in that city. Morris North, Director of Station WBYD, who came to Chicago to take charge of these broadcasts, thereupon announced President Dubinsky who delivered a short address in which he summarized the achievements of the convention over the two weeks, spoke of the radio programs in New York and throughout the Eastern section of the country under the auspices of the I.L.G.W.U., and extended his greetings to the membership of the entire union.

President Dubinsky's talk was followed by a speech by General Johnson, which came over, through telephone, to the convention hall at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago.

The final day of the convention began with the completion of the report of the Committee on Resolutions, which consumed about an hour.

At 10:30, the convention was ready for its last business, the nomination and election of a president, a general secretary-treasurer and of a complete General Executive Board and delegates to the American Federation of Labor convention.

First Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo assumed the chair, and threw the floor open to nominations. Vice-President Isidore Nagler, in a short and eloquent speech, nominated David Dubinsky, "the peerless son of Local 10," as president. In a moment, the motion to make the election unanimous by the casting of one vote was carried amidst cheers and applause, and David Dubinsky was re-elected unanimously as president of the I.L.G.W.U.

President Becomes President and Secretary-Treasurer

At that point, as the nominations for general secretary-treasurer were reached, Max D. Danish, editor of JUSTICE, read, by permission of the chair, a resolution introduced by the delegations of Locals 1, 2, 10, 25, 45, 50 and 59, the resolve of which read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Convention, mindful and appreciative of these facts and being the supreme legislative and executive body of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, herewith waive for the next two years the clause in our Constitution, Section 1, Article 1, requiring the election of a general secretary-treasurer, and that said post of general secretary-treasurer be vested during the aforementioned period in David Dubinsky, our president, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this special action by this Convention be tendered to our President, Bro. David Dubinsky, as an expression of the highest esteem and admiration felt towards him and his peerless leadership by the entire membership of our International Union represented at this Convention.

Brother Danish moved in the name of the introducers, the adoption of this resolution. The motion was voted upon and carried and the question of the nomination of a general secretary-treasurer was in this manner disposed of.

The next business was the nomination and election of a first vice-president, and Brothers Luigi Antonini and Salvatore Ninfo were both nominated for the office. After some discussion, Brother Ninfo withdrew his nomination, and Brother Luigi Antonini was unanimously elected to the post of first vice-president.

Upon special motion, which was strongly supported by President David Dubinsky, Brother Salvatore Ninfo was

Locate Sweatshop in Conn. Barn

By BERNARD SHUB

Connecticut State Organizer I.L.G.W.U.

Upon my return from Chicago, I found several complaints to the effect that somewhere, outside of Bridgeport, there is a sweatshop in operation in a small farm barn which called for immediate attention.

I immediately proceeded to investigate and before long found a "shop," under the name of Monroe Novelty Co., located on a farm in Monroe, Conn., operated by two men, Abraham Mahler and one Mojaki. I found this sweat shop in a small barn where eight sewing machines were cramped within a narrow space, making children's dresses and full-size dresses for the following New York jobbers:

nominated and elected vice-president by acclamation.

One after another, then followed the nominations for delegates to the 1934 and 1935 conventions of the American Federation of Labor, and the following accepted and elected delegates—

—CHAS. W. NORTON, LOUIS LANGER and Zachary L. Freedman, for the 1934 convention, and Abraham Snyder, Reuben Zuckerman and Nathan Margolis, for the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor.

For the out-of-town vice-presidents, the following eight were nominated and elected:

Morris Halls, Miss Rebeber, Israel Feinberg, Philip Kramer, George Rubin, Charles Kreindler, Abraham W. Katsky and Rose Peotta.

As 12 candidates were nominated for the 12 places on the list of the New York members of the General Executive Board, a ballot was required and a teller committee was appointed, which consisted of Messrs. Hoffman, Pielti, Lilliput, Morgenthaun, Rokman, Gerler, Romandil, Feinstein and Valenti, and Sister Fania M. Cohn. Dr. Hoffman reported the results of the voting as follows:

	Vote
Isidore Nagler	391
Harry Wander	281
Samuel Perlmutter	278
Joseph Breslav	274
Basilio Denti	271
Julius Hochman	266
Nicholas Kirtman	255
Chas. Zimmerman	199
Jacob Heller	194
Harry Greenberg	176
Mary Goff	160
Max Cohen	127

The first 10 were thereupon declared legally elected as New York members of the General Executive Board.

Cheers and Songs at Closing Moments

The final moment of the convention was reached when President Dubinsky called upon former Vice-President Sol Polakoff to induce into office the newly-elected General Executive Board. Brother Polakoff, after a short speech, swore to the members of the new General Executive Board and declared them elected, whereupon President Dubinsky called upon audience to sing the three militant songs of the I.L.G.W.U., the International Anthem, the Victory Song and, finally, the Internationale. The singing continued for nearly half an hour. President Dubinsky then solemnly announced the twenty-second convention of the I.L.G.W.U. adjourned sine die.

Barney Davis, 535-4th Avenue; Universal Dress, 130-10th Avenue; Marie Frocks, 344 West 26th Street, and Royal Knit, 140-10th Avenue.

Children—12 and 14 Years Old—Employed

It was unbelievable to find that this "factory" was employing, in June, 1934, children between the ages of 12 and 14. I personally interviewed one of the children, 12 years old, who is the daughter of a Monroe farmer and attends the Outler farm school.

Altogether, there were about 15 people employed in that shop, all women and children. Other amazing facts that I discovered were that a girl of 13, a sister of Ethel Wagner, Helen, had worked as many as 74 hours in one week, including Saturday and Sunday, for which she received the grand sum of \$4 and some change. It is needless to say that we were not interested in salooning or organizing this "shop." My primary interest was to eliminate this sweating nest and, if possible, to collect some back pay due to the girls, which, in my estimation would amount to about \$2,000.

I took this matter up with the State Department of Labor, as a result of which both proprietors were placed under arrest. They will be tried for violation of the State labor laws for working women excessive hours and for employing minors.

I believe this is one of the last unsavory relics of the sweatshop in Connecticut, the kind that furnished by the score here before the I.L.G.W.U. came into this State and organized the women's garment workers. This story of a "barn sweatshop" created quite a storm in the local press and The Bridgeport Herald carried it conspicuously for several days on the front page with photographs of the "factory" and of the school girl, Ethel Wagner, who worked three weeks for 75 cents.



HELEN WAGNER
School Child Shop Worker

Our Regular Feature—"N. Y. Dressmakers' Section"
Will Be Resumed in the Next Issue of "Justice"

Cutters' News and Events

By SAMUEL PERLMUTTER
Manager of Local 10

In view of the fact that last month's issue of JUSTICE was chiefly an "Anniversary Number" containing greetings from the leaders of the Socialist and Labor movement, and historical reviews and sketches of our organization since its inception 25 years ago, it was impossible for us to report in that number the routine work of our local, and instead of that we had a brief historical survey of Local 10 under the caption, "Cutters' Union, Sixty-five Years Old."

It is important, however, as a matter of record, that the members of Local 10 got the report of our election of delegates to the 22nd Biennial Convention.

To begin with, Local 10 was invited to the election, the largest delegation we had at a convention. This, naturally, was due to the tremendous increase in our membership.

Our nominations were held on April 14, and the election campaign was rather successful. The voting took place on April 21, 1,300 members participating in it. The largest convention elections on record in Local 10. Of course, it is needless to dwell on the unimpeachable conduct of the election itself. Suffice it to say that the opposition freely participated in the control of the election and has taken part in the account.

The following is the report of the election board:

The nominees and the number of votes they received: David Dubinsky, 1,087; Samuel Perlmutter, 1,097; Louis Stulberg, 1,077; Joel Abramowitz, 1,013; Charles W. Jacobs, 933; Moe Falkman, 911; Max L. Gordon, 939; Morris Feldman, 946; Nathan Sapstein, 932; Meyer Friedman, 930; Israel Slavin, 934; Moe Diamond, 911; Wm. Kunitz, 947; Adolph Simon, 911; David King, 939; Harry Simon, 911.

The first ten who received the highest number of votes were elected as delegates.

Our resolutions

At a membership meeting held on May 14, a number of resolutions drafted by the delegation for introduction to the Convention was submitted to the membership for approval. Among them were the following: The endorsement of a labor party; a re-arrangement of our system of membership insurance; jurisdiction question of Local No. 154 cutters; the 29-hour week; restriction of groups; NLA; patternmakers; May First, etc.

Most of these resolutions were discussed at length and adopted at that meeting. The resolution submitted by the delegation providing for the abolition of clubs and groups existing in any local affiliated with the International called forth a warm discussion. Some of those present pointed to the fact that abolition of clubs and groups would render it impossible to offer criticism and would undermine free speech, etc.

In defending this resolution, Manager Perlmutter argued that there is no room for any club or group within any democratic organization, especially in Local 10, whose constitution provides an

unbridled democratic form of trade union government. He stressed the fact that no man has ever been restricted from expressing his opinion at our meetings, and that there is no need in our local for clubs and groups except for such whose aim and object is deliberately to create confusion and distrust.

History has proved, Manager Perlmutter added, that these clubs and groups were rather a menace than an asset to the membership and the Union. The thousands of members affiliated with Local 10 are individually entitled to as much recognition as groups. The group idea means a few individuals claiming for themselves more privileges than others, which certainly is against any principle of democracy.

This resolution was carried by a great majority of those who still remained at the meeting despite the lateness of the hour.

The Spirit of the Convention

Brother Louis Stulberg was elected as chairman of the delegation to take care of all matters at the convention in Chicago, especially those of a technical nature.

On the Saturday before leaving for Chicago, a "send-off" luncheon was given in honor of the delegation at the Central Plaza Hall, at which over 300 members were present. The spirit which prevailed at that luncheon was, beyond a doubt, the most fraternal witnessed in Local 10 in many years. It was only regrettable that this luncheon was arranged in a hurry and that a larger hall could not be secured as hundreds of members anxious to attend were unable to procure tickets. Among the speakers at the dinner were: President David Dubinsky, Julius Hochman, Phillip Kapp, Isidore Nagler, Sam Greenberg, Manager Perlmutter, Ben Shapiro, a cutter from the Shapiro & Sons shop and Joel Abramowitz. Louis Stulberg was toastmaster.

Immediately after the luncheon, the delegation, escorted by hundreds of cutters, left for Grand Central Station, where two trains, reserved for the I.L.O. W.U. delegations, were waiting, and amidst greetings, handshaking, cheers and song left for Chicago.

Convention Most Harmonious in History of International

Since 1910, this Convention was the most harmonious in the history of the I.L.O. W.U.

The spirit which prevailed among the delegates from the different parts of the United States and Canada was most friendly and cooperative. Even resolutions which involved sharp differences of opinion on matters of jurisdiction and policy were decided upon in the most lucidly spirit. The bitterness and the sharp feelings of the past were conspicuously by their absence. Space does not permit mentioning some of the most thrilling episodes that transpired during the convention. It is worth noting, however, the special incident, when President David Dubinsky was presented with a painting of himself by Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Clock Joint Board, in token of his appreciation.

Another thrilling moment at the convention was the demonstration that took place following the nomination of David Dubinsky by Brother Isidore Nagler. The delegate, led by the Local 10 delegation under the Local 10 banner, paraded for a half hour throughout the hall in the midst of cheering and thunderous applause, the greatest ovation ever given a president of the I.L.O. W.U.

Of the various convention committees,

the two most important ones were the Committee on Officers' Report and the Committee on Organization.

convention could have come to but one conclusion that our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which has weathered the storm through all these trying years, has now become a permanent power that is ready to march on to further progress and further gains and improvements for the hundreds of thousands of workers engaged in the ladies' garment industry the country over.

Executive Board More Strict About the 35-Hour Week

At recent meetings of the Executive Board, cutters who were summoned to answer for working after hours explained in defense of their action that they did not work, but rather waited around a little longer in order to get their pay. The Executive Board decided, however, that in no event should this be taken as an excuse.

Cutters who work for firms that make it a habit to keep them waiting after hours for their pay are instructed to immediately inform the office so that steps can be taken to stop this.

The Executive Board also decided that it will be considered a violation to work the 7 hours during hours other than those provided in the agreement. In other words, the agreement provides that the 7-hour workday for dress cutters is to start at 9:00 in the morning and end at 5:00 P. M. Any dress cutter starting earlier than 9:00 in the morning or finishing later than 5:00 in the evening shall, therefore, be subject to either a heavy fine or to removal from the job.

The 7-hour workday for cloak cutters is to start at 8:30 in the morning and end at 5:00 P. M. Any cloak cutter starting earlier than 8:30 A. M. or finishing later than 5:00 P. M. shall be subject to either a heavy fine or to removal from the job.

We hope that this announcement will see every cutter straight so that he will know how to act in the future.

David Crystal Shop, Long Non-Union, Now Organized

The following is a communication received from the cutters of the David Crystal shop:

April 25, 1934.

We, the cutters of David Crystal, wish to express our deep appreciation to our manager, Samuel Perlmutter, and secretary, Maurice W. Jacobs, for their efforts which they have exerted in behalf of the workers of David Crystal, leading to the end of the David Crystal shop as one of the largest dress manufacturers in New York, who operated as a non-union shop for the past 18 years, was finally forced to sign up with the International and unite his two shops in Reading and Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Now that our firm is falling in line with the rest of the industry, we look forward to be placed on par with the rest of the cutters under the protection of Local 10.

We are particularly grateful to the above-mentioned brothers because

we know of the keen interest and the earnest attention they have paid during the past six months in attempting to organize the shop of David Crystal, and the moment the opportunity thus created, we immediately called the attention of the Dressmakers' Joint Board, the representative act which they saw every bread.

We also with Manager Samuel Perlmutter and Secretary Maurice W. Jacobs, discuss the future undertakings by the organization for the benefit of the cutters.

Our Recreational Activities

As a result of requests received from members of recent affiliation, many of whom received high school training and are interested in recreational and athletic activities, Local 10 has organized a baseball team under the direction of Brother Samuel Flamm.

We may recall that most of the boys who joined this baseball league of Local 10, about 100 of them, are making excellent progress. Local 10 succeeded in procuring a permit for the baseball fields in Prospect Park as well as Central Park. So far we have played a few teams and are accumulating a non-defeat record.

The following are the regular members of the two baseball teams organized by the local and their positions on the teams:

Team A: Harry Engel, Lee Anderson, Murray Aschbacher, Marty Rabbit, Dan Mayerson, Wm. Shalness, Samuel Flamm - outfielders; Louis Stulberg, Charles Maner, "Chubby" Auerbach, Nat Ossillo and Joseph Davis - infielders; Steve Magel, Jack Becker, Harold Morfitt - pitchers; Seymour Oberman and Walter - catchers.

The organization intends to extend these activities in other fields of sports. Quite a number of members, especially the Italian brothers, have inquired of the writer how soon made and give clubs may be organized as they are eager to take part in them, being musically talented.

As soon as the hot months are over an announcement will be made to this effect.

Boycott German-Made Implements

Acting on a communication received from the New York Central Trades & Labor Council, referring to the resolution calling for the boycott of German-made goods, the Executive Board of Local 10 decided to express thanks and appreciation for this splendid action taken by the central body.

It was also decided to call upon all cutters to see to it that any implements used by them at the cutting table, be it a knife, scissors or any part of the cutting machine, are not German-made. Should they find any implements used around the cutting table to have been made in Germany, they are immediately to communicate with the local and action will be taken to prevent the use of such implements in the future.

ATTENTION CUTTERS OF LOCAL 10 RENEW YOUR WORKING CARDS

All Cloak, Dress, Reafter, Balcony Underwear, Skirt, Blouse and Children's Dress cutters, etc., must renew their working cards and secure others when obtaining a new job.

All cutters are instructed to renew their working cards beginning July, 1934, for the new season. Immediately upon returning to work. Failure to do so will be considered a serious violation and will make you subject to heavy punishment.

ATTENTION, CUTTERS! MEMBERS OF LOCAL 10

Meetings for the month of July will take place in the order as hereinafter arranged.

1. Regular Membership Meeting, Monday, July 9, 1934.

2. Regular Membership Meeting, Monday, July 30, 1934.

The above meetings are to be held in Arlington Hall, 23 St. Marks Place, at 7:30 P. M. Cutters are urged to attend without fail.

Editorial Notes

THE GREATEST CONVENTION the I.L.G.W.U. has ever held is over.

It was, by far, the greatest in number of delegates who represented, by far, the largest membership this Union ever had on its rolls. As a pageant, recording the spectacular rise of the I.L.G.W.U. from a state of utter depression to a position of commanding influence in one of America's greatest consumer industries, it exceeded in glamour anything attempted by a labor union heretofore. Its greatest triumph, perhaps, consisted in the conviction it brought to the leadership of the organization that the huge gains it made in the preceding year by enlisting nearly 150,000 new members were not bookkeeping gains but that they represent substantial, dependable divisions of workers fast maturing into seasoned and militant trade unionists.

There was glory, pathos and drama galore at every session, at every hour of this memorable gathering. There were speeches without end—it seemed every organization and institution on the map of the land was eager to have its laudatory word heard from the convention's platform; there were festivities, parades, outings, dinners, and parties to fill in every vacant hour along the two-week stretch of the meeting. Yet, there was much more than joy-making and simon-pure celebrating at Chicago. At once, during its twenty-one sessions, has the convention failed to lay emphasis on the fact that its chief duty was to consolidate and to hold fast to the acquisitions the International has made and that the surest way of holding on to gains is to proceed to spread out activity and to conquer fields as yet unconquered.

The far-flung network of new organizing enterprises which the convention has mapped out for the incoming General Executive Board is unchallenged testimony to the activist and militant spirit which prevailed at Chicago. It has bequeathed to the leadership of the I.L.G.W.U. an immense task for the next two years. There is reason for hoping that, barring unforeseen at this hour circumstances, the new General Executive Board, under the tireless direction of President Dubinsky, will come to the next convention with this task realized—a ladies' garment industry one hundred per cent unionized.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION re-elected the entire General Executive Board for another administrative term. It added six additional members to its personnel—four from New York and two from markets outside New York.

There was, of course, nothing unexpected in the reelection of the G.E.B. The leadership of the I.L.G.W.U. "came through" in 1932-1934 in the most creditable manner, and victorious leaders are rarely if ever rejected by any organization. The addition of six members to the Board, on the other hand, reflected the growth of the Union, the accretion of new markets and spheres of interest which had to be given a place on the highest executive body of the I.L.G.W.U.

The finest—and unique—tribute paid by the convention to a leader unquestionably, nevertheless, was its decision, without a dissenting voice, to vest in President Dubinsky for the next two years the powers of general secretary-treasurer in addition

to his duties as president of the organization. In this decision the convention was not at all prompted by a desire to have the salary of a secretary-treasurer. It came rather as a spontaneous, unchallenged recognition of President Dubinsky's superb qualities as financial administrator, proved so glowingly by the Union's financial record for the past two years during which he filled with equal success both posts—that of president and secretary-treasurer.

WE CANNOT RECALL A MORE DRAMATIC MOMENT—in two weeks replete with tense excitement and endless animation—than the incident which prompted the General Executive Board to move the convention from the Medina Avenue Club to the Morrison Hotel because the former hotel discriminated against our Negro delegates.

Moving a convention of 400 delegates and several hundred guests on short notice is not an easy matter aside from the added expense such a transfer inevitably involves. But the General Executive Board did not hesitate for a moment. Within two hours, the entire machinery of the convention was moved to the new headquarters and by the next morning the sessions proceeded undisturbed at the Morrison Hotel.

To our best recollection, this is the first instance on record of a big labor organization in the United States actively and demonstratively taking sides on behalf of racial equality in the labor movement. The convention went far beyond paying mere lip service to the principle of fair play to all races and nationalities. It struck a blow for this principle the moment an opportunity presented itself that was heard throughout the Labor world of America and created a deep impression by its directness and sincerity on all progressive and liberal-minded Americans.

In the words of President Dubinsky, as he explained it to the delegates on the morning after the convention abandoned the "Jim Crow" Medina Avenue Club for the more liberal atmosphere of the Morrison Hotel:

"We are a labor union and we do not share in racial prejudices. We are committed to the principle of equality, of justice and of resistance to oppression. It was natural for us actively to resist this discrimination against workers, members of our Union, on the basis of their race, color or nationality. It was just a case of supporting words by proper action."

THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE JURISDICTIONAL controversy between the I.L.G.W.U. and the United Textile Workers of America with regard to the knitted garment industry, which for several months was creating a disturbance and hindering materially the organizing activity in that large trade, has met with widespread approval among the workers in the knitted garment shops and in the Labor movement as a whole.

The settlement, which recognizes the respective rights of the knitters and the garment makers in that industry, offers a workable machinery, through joint councils, to both unions and it also lays the groundwork for unhampered and successful organizing work. Credit for this achievement, besides

President Dubinsky who had been toiling hard for peace between our Union and the U.T.W. and the American Federation of Labor, to President William Green and to Vice-President Matthew Woll who presided over the jurisdiction hearings.

Peace in the knitted garment industry, certainly has come none too soon in view of the attitude of the employers' groups on the eve of the renewal of agreements which expire on July 15. Already, several of these knitted underwear manufacturers have seen fit to rush into the press with statements that they "would resist the efforts of the Union to force upon them" improved work conditions and that they, anyway, would not deal with a "ready-to-wear" union such as ours. This statement, as President Dubinsky distinctly pointed out in his reply to these belligerent employers, means a declaration of war. It forecasts a fight in the knitted garment industry, and while the I.L.G.W.U. would prefer to settle the question of agreement renewal without a recourse to warfare, if the employers court a fight, the Union will be ready to accommodate them—this time with a solid line of all the workers in the shops.

FOR A FULL WEEK, in the latter part of June, the center of interest in the I.L.G.W.U. shifted to Washington, to the hearings on the reopening of the Cotton Garment Code. These hearings were ordered by the NRA at the request of our Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the United Garment Workers.

It is estimated that over 60,000 workers are employed in the cotton and wash dress factories in every part of the country. These factories operate under the Cotton Garment Code on a 40-hour schedule and under a \$13 weekly wage minimum. Our Union has contended right along that the cotton and wash dress factories belong under the Dress Code. At the hearings we, therefore, demanded a 35-hour week, an increase in wages, a definite wage scale for cutters, and the transfer of the cotton and wash dress industry to the regular code for the Dress Industry.

Our representatives pointed out at these hearings that the longer hours of the Cotton Garment Code hindered the re-employment of the idle in that industry and that their low minimum kept down the purchasing power of these workers; that the so-called cotton shops were manufacturing rayon, silk and wool dresses in unfair competition to the regular dress shops and to the detriment of workers in all dress shops. The employers' association in the cotton garment industry stubbornly resisted the Union's demands by raising sectional and racial issues, and by predicting disaster and dire consequences to the industry in the event the condition of their workers is improved. They also invoked the aid of a half a dozen members of Congress who came to these hearings to plead the cause of low wages and long work-hours at the behest of the cotton garment factory owners.

That's where the situation stands at this moment. Conferences for a time will continue before this vital dispute is decided upon by the NRA Administration. It is, nevertheless, quite evident that we are confronted in this situation with powerful opposition and that we shall have to mobilize all our resources to win improved work conditions for these tens of thousands of workers and eventually curb exploitation of labor in the cotton and wash dress industry.